

Civil Engineering Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts
Printable Trivia Pack

Civil Engineering trivia explores the people, projects, materials, and design principles that shape modern infrastructure. From landmark bridges and ancient aqueducts to geotechnics, transportation, and structural safety, it offers a family-friendly mix of easy, funny, and challenging questions grounded in the history and practice of the field.

HARD CIVIL ENGINEERING TRIVIA

1. Which engineer, paired with John Fowler, designed the Forth Bridge?

Answer: Benjamin Baker

2. For the Brooklyn Bridge, what is the exact length of its main span?

Answer: 1,595.5 feet

3. Name the bridge whose main span measures 4,200 feet.?

Answer: The Golden Gate Bridge

4. On the Millau Viaduct, how high does the tallest mast rise?

Answer: 343 meters

5. Which engineer worked with architect Norman Foster on the design of the Millau Viaduct?

Answer: Michel Virlogeux

6. The Confederation Bridge stretches to about what total length?

Answer: 12.9 kilometers

7. At approximately 50.5 kilometers long, which megaproject is being described?

Answer: The Channel Tunnel

8. Which tunnel in this set is the longer one at about 57.1 kilometers?

Answer: The Gotthard Base Tunnel

9. In what year was the Aswan High Dam completed?

Answer: 1970

10. The Three Gorges Dam became fully operational in which year?

Answer: 2012

11. How tall is Hoover Dam, according to the listed figure?

Answer: 726.4 feet

12. Kansai International Airport added its second runway in what year?

Answer: 2007

13. What height is given for the Burj Khalifa?

Answer: 828 meters

14. Which twin-tower landmark is listed at a height of 452 meters?

Answer: The Petronas Towers

FUNNY CIVIL ENGINEERING TRIVIA

1. Before the Leaning Tower of Pisa began its long audition for 'world's most famous oops,' what year did construction start?

Answer: 1173

2. If you wanted to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa in person, which city would your train ticket need to say?

Answer: Pisa

3. What turned the Leaning Tower of Pisa into history's most famous building with a permanent side-eye?

Answer: Soft ground and shallow foundations

4. The first Tacoma Narrows Bridge made its debut in what year before things got dramatically memorable?

Answer: 1940

5. Which bridge is famous for the kind of structural drama that still gets talked about in engineering class?

Answer: The first Tacoma Narrows Bridge

6. What nickname did the first Tacoma Narrows Bridge earn, as if it were a rodeo horse with cables?

Answer: Galloping Gertie

7. After the original Tacoma Narrows Bridge became a cautionary tale, the second bridge opened in what year?

Answer: 1950

8. Which Los Angeles building looks like it was designed by someone who really respected vinyl?

Answer: The Capitol Records Building

9. How many floors does each Petronas Tower have above ground because apparently 87 just wouldn't have had the same ring?

Answer: 88

10. In what year did the CN Tower officially open and begin looming over postcards?

Answer: 1976

11. Which city gets to casually say, 'Oh that giant CN Tower? Yes, that's ours'?

Answer: Toronto

12. Marina City in Chicago is nicknamed what, sounding less like a housing complex and more like a suspiciously stylish vegetable?

Answer: Corn cob towers

13. Who designed Marina City, the Chicago complex better known as the 'corn cob towers'?

Answer: Bertrand Goldberg

FUN CIVIL ENGINEERING TRIVIA

1. Why does the word "civil" appear in "civil engineering" in the first place?

Answer: To distinguish it from military engineering.

2. In which country was the profession of civil engineer recognized by the early 19th century?

Answer: Britain.

3. What year saw the founding of the Institution of Civil Engineers?

Answer: 1818.

4. Railway history pop quiz: the Stockton and Darlington Railway opened in what year?

Answer: 1825.

5. The Warren truss didn't name itself. Which engineer gave it his name?

Answer: James Warren.

6. Who made crucial mathematical contributions to the design of the Golden Gate Bridge?

Answer: Charles Alton Ellis.

7. Which Spanish engineer became especially known for thin-shell concrete structures?

Answer: Eduardo Torroja.

8. Which major contributor to engineering science had the memorable name William John Macquorn Rankine?

Answer: Rankine.

9. Karl Terzaghi's influential book that helped establish modern soil mechanics was published in what year?

Answer: 1925.

10. If you're standing on the Three Gorges Dam, which country are you in?

Answer: China.

11. The Aswan High Dam calls which country home?

Answer: Egypt.

12. Which two oceans does the Panama Canal connect?

Answer: The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

13. The Confederation Bridge crosses which strait?

Answer: The Northumberland Strait.

CIVIL ENGINEERING FAMILY TRIVIA

1. In what year did the Brooklyn Bridge open to the public?

Answer: 1883

2. Who played a key role in completing the Brooklyn Bridge?

Answer: Emily Warren Roebling

3. Which engineer designed the Menai Suspension Bridge?

Answer: Thomas Telford

4. The Britannia Bridge crosses which strait?

Answer: Menai Strait

5. Who designed the Britannia Bridge?

Answer: Robert Stephenson

6. Isambard Kingdom Brunel served as chief engineer of which railway?

Answer: Great Western Railway

7. Which engineer's name is attached to the Eiffel Tower?

Answer: Gustave Eiffel

8. The Eads Bridge crosses which major river at St. Louis?

Answer: Mississippi River

9. What year did the Eads Bridge open?

Answer: 1874

10. Which prominent bridge engineer worked in the United States and was named Ralph Modjeski?

Answer: Ralph Modjeski

11. Confederation Bridge links New Brunswick with which island province?

Answer: Prince Edward Island

12. In what year did Confederation Bridge open?

Answer: 1997

EASY CIVIL ENGINEERING TRIVIA

1. Which famous bridge in Scotland is known for its cantilever design?

Answer: The Forth Bridge is famous for its cantilever design.

2. What tunnel runs beneath the English Channel and links the United Kingdom with France?

Answer: The Channel Tunnel runs beneath the English Channel between the United Kingdom and France.

3. Hoover Dam holds back which river to create Lake Mead?

Answer: Hoover Dam impounds the Colorado River to form Lake Mead.

4. Who oversaw the U.S. construction of the Panama Canal?

Answer: George Washington Goethals oversaw the Panama Canal during U.S. construction.

5. The Brooklyn Bridge crosses which river in New York City?

Answer: The Brooklyn Bridge crosses the East River in New York City.

6. Which iconic bridge is located in San Francisco, California?

Answer: The Golden Gate Bridge is located in San Francisco, California.

7. What is the tallest building in the world?

Answer: The Burj Khalifa is the tallest building in the world.

8. The Aswan High Dam was built across which river in Egypt?

Answer: The Aswan High Dam was built across the Nile River in Egypt.

9. The Three Gorges Dam stands on which river in China?

Answer: The Three Gorges Dam stands on the Yangtze River in China.

10. In what part of the United Kingdom would you find the Menai Suspension Bridge?

Answer: The Menai Suspension Bridge is located in Wales.

11. The Gotthard Base Tunnel runs through which mountain region?

Answer: The Gotthard Base Tunnel runs through the Swiss Alps.

12. Kansai International Airport was built on an artificial island in which bay?

Answer: Kansai International Airport was built on an artificial island in Osaka Bay.

13. What do engineers call concrete that has internal stresses introduced before service loading?

Answer: This is called prestressed concrete.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/civil-engineering>