

Earth Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Earth trivia explores the science, history, and oddities of the only known world to support life, from its 4.5-billion-year past to the dynamic systems that shape it today. Expect a mix of approachable facts and tougher stumpers about oceans, continents, weather, geology, and the small details that make our planet remarkable.

HARD EARTH TRIVIA

1. Roughly when did the Great Oxidation Event occur?

Answer: About 2.4 billion years ago.

2. The global glaciation episodes nicknamed 'Snowball Earth' are associated with which period?

Answer: The Cryogenian Period.

3. About how many million years ago did the Ediacaran Period begin?

Answer: About 635 million years ago.

4. The Permian-Triassic mass extinction is dated to approximately what time?

Answer: About 252 million years ago.

5. At roughly what date did the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction occur?

Answer: About 66 million years ago.

6. Which historical figure is often called a founder of modern geology?

Answer: James Hutton.

7. Which geology classic was written by Charles Lyell?

Answer: Principles of Geology.

8. Name the discontinuity that marks the boundary between Earth's crust and mantle.?

Answer: The Mohorovičić discontinuity.

9. Which named boundary separates Earth's mantle from its outer core?

Answer: The Gutenberg discontinuity.

10. Which discontinuity is associated with the boundary of Earth's inner core?

Answer: The Lehmann discontinuity.

11. If Earth's outer core could fill out a state-of-matter survey, what box would it check?

Answer: Liquid.

12. What process in Earth's outer core generates the planet's magnetic field?

Answer: The geodynamo.

13. About how thick is continental crust on average?

Answer: About 35 kilometers.

14. Mainly what kind of composition does oceanic crust have?

Answer: Basaltic.

FUNNY EARTH TRIVIA

1. If Earth had to fill out a metal-themed ID card for its solid inner core, which two elements would it brag about most?

Answer: Iron and nickel

2. What do geologists call molten rock when it's still lurking beneath Earth's surface instead of making a dramatic entrance?

Answer: Magma

3. Earth isn't trying to collect moons like trading cards. How many natural moons does it have?

Answer: One moon

4. When February gets its bonus episode during a leap year, how many days does it contain?

Answer: 29 days

5. Earth's spin is apparently not in a hurry. By about how much is the length of a day increasing per century?

Answer: About 1.7 milliseconds per century

6. Earth once turned the thermostat all the way up at Furnace Creek. What is the highest reliably recorded air temperature?

Answer: 56.7°C

7. Antarctica won the opposite contest. What is the coldest temperature recorded on Earth?

Answer: -89.2°C

8. If umbrellas had a capital city, which place is often cited as the wettest on Earth?

Answer: Mawsynram

9. Which famously parched place is the driest non-polar desert on Earth?

Answer: The Atacama Desert

10. Earth's atmosphere doesn't just stop politely at the roofline. What outer region does it extend into?

Answer: The exosphere

11. Astronauts and mapmakers often use a particular altitude as the edge of space. Where is the Kármán line set above Earth?

Answer: 100 kilometers

12. Earth does a lot of its volcanic work where fish are the witnesses. About what share of volcanic activity happens beneath the oceans?

Answer: About 90%

13. What fiery-sounding zone wraps around much of the Pacific Ocean basin like Earth forgot to turn off the stove?

Answer: The Ring of Fire

FUN EARTH TRIVIA

1. If the Solar System held a 'life club,' which planet is currently the only confirmed member?

Answer: Earth

2. What glowing sky show near the poles is helped along by Earth's magnetic field?

Answer: Auroras

3. In a total solar eclipse, who photobombs the Sun from Earth's point of view?

Answer: The Moon

4. Earth's seasons aren't from mood swingsâ they're caused mainly by a tilt of about how many degrees?

Answer: About 23.5 degrees

5. Earth's axis does a very slow cosmic wobble. What's that wobble called?

Answer: Precession

6. What's Earth's longest mountain rangeâ even though most of it is underwater and not exactly posing for postcards?

Answer: The Mid-Ocean Ridge

7. At what kind of plate boundary does Earth make fresh oceanic crust?

Answer: Divergent plate boundaries

8. What process inside Earth helps push tectonic plates around like a very slow conveyor belt?

Answer: Convection in the mantle

9. What year did Alfred Wegener propose continental drift?

Answer: 1912

10. Who helped map the seafloor and reveal the Mid-Atlantic Ridge?

Answer: Marie Tharp

11. Precise atmospheric CO₂ measurements at Mauna Loa began in what year?

Answer: 1958

12. What name is given to the graph tracking the long-term rise in atmospheric CO₂?

Answer: The Keeling Curve

13. Who proposed the Gaia hypothesis?

Answer: James Lovelock

EARTH FAMILY TRIVIA

1. On what date is Earth Day celebrated each year?

Answer: April 22

2. What year saw the very first Earth Day?

Answer: 1970

3. Which space mission took the famous Earthrise photo in 1968?

Answer: Apollo 8

4. The Blue Marble photograph from 1972 was taken by the crew of which mission?

Answer: Apollo 17

5. Who wrote the book 'Pale Blue Dot'?

Answer: Carl Sagan

6. Which writer is known for authoring 'Silent Spring'?

Answer: Rachel Carson

7. Which film centers on climate change?

Answer: An Inconvenient Truth

8. In what year did Michael Jackson release 'Earth Song'?

Answer: 1995

9. What year did the documentary series 'Planet Earth' first air?

Answer: 2006

10. Greta Thunberg began her school climate strike in which year?

Answer: 2018

11. Which marine biologist is especially known for ocean advocacy?

Answer: Sylvia Earle

12. What device did Jacques Cousteau co-develop in 1943?

Answer: Aqua-Lung

EASY EARTH TRIVIA

1. Which planet is the third planet from the Sun?

Answer: Earth is the third planet from the Sun.

2. About what percentage of Earth's surface is covered by water?

Answer: About 71% of Earth's surface is covered by water.

3. What is Earth's only natural satellite?

Answer: Earth's only natural satellite is the Moon.

4. About how old is Earth?

Answer: Earth is about 4.54 billion years old.

5. Which ocean is the largest on Earth?

Answer: The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean on Earth.

6. What is the highest mountain above sea level on Earth?

Answer: Mount Everest is Earth's highest mountain above sea level.

7. Which place is Earth's largest desert by total area?

Answer: Antarctica is Earth's largest desert by total area.

8. What is the outermost solid layer of Earth called?

Answer: The crust is Earth's outermost solid layer.

9. Most of Earth's weather happens in which layer of the atmosphere?

Answer: Most weather occurs in Earth's troposphere.

10. The ozone layer is concentrated in which part of Earth's atmosphere?

Answer: The ozone layer is concentrated in the stratosphere.

11. What longitude value is assigned to the prime meridian?

Answer: The prime meridian is defined as 0 degrees longitude.

12. About how long does Earth take to rotate once?

Answer: Earth rotates once in about 24 hours.

13. About how long does Earth take to revolve around the Sun?

Answer: Earth revolves around the Sun in about 365 days.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/earth>