

Explorers and Expeditions Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Explorers and Expeditions trivia traces the voyages, overland crossings, and scientific missions that reshaped maps and expanded human knowledge. From ancient seafarers to polar adventurers and space-age pioneers, the topic highlights the risks, rivalries, and discoveries behind history's most memorable expeditions. Whether you prefer light challenges or tougher questions, it offers a lively way to test what you know about exploration across eras.

HARD EXPLORERS AND EXPEDITIONS TRIVIA

1. How many men were in Roald Amundsen's South Pole party when it reached the pole in 1911?

Answer: Five men

2. At the moment of success in 1911, Amundsen stood at the South Pole with a party of how many?

Answer: Five

3. What was the name of the small boat Shackleton and five companions used to sail from Elephant Island to South Georgia in 1916?

Answer: James Caird

4. Which vessel carried Shackleton and five companions on the 1916 passage from Elephant Island to South Georgia?

Answer: James Caird

5. In what sea was the wreck of Endurance found in 2022?

Answer: The Weddell Sea

6. True or false: The wreck of Endurance was located in the Weddell Sea in 2022.?

Answer: True

7. Name the island near which Franklin's expedition ships were trapped in ice in September 1846.?

Answer: King William Island

8. James Cook's first Pacific voyage used which island as the observation point for the 1769 transit of Venus?

Answer: Tahiti

9. For the 1769 transit of Venus, Cook's expedition set up observations at what Pacific location?

Answer: Tahiti

10. At what bay in Hawaii was James Cook killed in 1779?

Answer: Kealahou Bay

11. Which Hawaiian bay is tied to James Cook's death in 1779?

Answer: Kealakekua Bay

12. Before its modern name stuck, what name did Abel Tasman give to New Zealand?

Answer: Staten Landt

13. What earlier name did Tasman apply to New Zealand before it was changed?

Answer: Staten Landt

14. On what island did Vitus Bering die in 1741?

Answer: Bering Island

FUNNY EXPLORERS AND EXPEDITIONS TRIVIA

1. When Henry Stanley finally met Livingstone in 1871, what famously polite line is he reported to have used, as if he were arriving for tea instead of a major expedition?

Answer: Dr. Livingstone, I presume?

2. Which lunar craft touched down on the Moon while its crew was uncomfortably low on fuelâ basically the least relaxing parking job imaginable?

Answer: Eagle lunar module

3. During the Endurance ordeal, what surprisingly normal game did Shackleton's crew play on sea ice, as if the ice were just a neighborhood park?

Answer: Soccer

4. True or false: On Darwin's voyage, the Beagle was literally a dog aboard the ship.?

Answer: False

5. If someone tells you the word means 'star sailor,' which space-travel title are they defining?

Answer: astronaut

6. Which term for a space traveler comes from Greek roots meaning 'universe sailor'â the more cosmic-sounding cousin in the job-title family?

Answer: cosmonaut

7. In the line 'The Eagle has landed,' what was Eagle actually referring to: a bird or something built by engineers?

Answer: A spacecraft

8. Magellan named which ocean using a word meaning peaceful, giving a very calm label to a very large body of water?

Answer: Pacific Ocean

9. The Vikings did not call one explored region 'North America.' What name did they use instead?

Answer: Vinland

10. Which polar ship was designed to rise above crushing ice rather than try to argue with

it?

Answer: Fram

11. What famous Apollo 13 phrase was spoken after an oxygen tank explodedâ an all-time classic in understated bad-news delivery?

Answer: Houston, we've had a problem

12. Tasmania carries the name of which explorer, turning a whole island into a very large tribute?

Answer: Abel Tasman

13. Multiple choice: Which reported greeting belongs to Stanley meeting Livingstone in 1871?

Answer: Dr. Livingstone, I presume?

FUN EXPLORERS AND EXPEDITIONS TRIVIA

1. Which expedition finally reached the Pacific coast in 1805?

Answer: The Lewis and Clark Expedition reached the Pacific coast in 1805.

2. What was the official name of the Lewis and Clark Expedition party?

Answer: The party was officially called the Corps of Discovery.

3. Sacagawea traveled with a very young companion on the expedition. Who was he?

Answer: Her infant son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.

4. Which explorer reached parts of North America in 1497 while sailing for England?

Answer: John Cabot.

5. Whose name eventually gave rise to the name America?

Answer: Amerigo Vespucci's name gave rise to the name America.

6. After Magellan's expedition lost its original leader, who captained the Victoria back to Spain to complete the first circumnavigation?

Answer: Juan Sebasti^n Elcano captained the Victoria back to Spain.

7. Which Norse explorer is linked with a voyage to Vinland around the year 1000?

Answer: Leif Erikson.

8. Who founded Quebec in 1608 after voyages in New France?

Answer: Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec in 1608.

9. Which explorer poked around the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in the 1530s?

Answer: Jacques Cartier explored the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in the 1530s.

10. Which Spanish explorer traveled through parts of the southeastern present-day United States in the 1540s?

Answer: Hernando de Soto.

11. Who led the Spanish expedition that conquered the Inca Empire in the 1530s?

Answer: Francisco Pizarro led the expedition.

12. Which navigator reached India by sea in 1498?

Answer: Vasco da Gama reached India by sea in 1498.

13. Who rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1488?

Answer: Bartolomeu Dias.

EXPLORERS AND EXPEDITIONS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who led the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition from 1914 to 1917?

Answer: Ernest Shackleton

2. What was the name of Shackleton's ship that was crushed by Antarctic pack ice in 1915?

Answer: Endurance

3. Which explorer reached the South Pole in January 1912?

Answer: Robert Falcon Scott

4. Who tried to drift across the Arctic Ocean aboard the ship Fram in the 1890s?

Answer: Fridtjof Nansen

5. Which explorer accompanied Robert Peary on the 1909 North Pole expedition?

Answer: Matthew Henson

6. Who commanded the lost 1845 expedition that set out to find the Northwest Passage?

Answer: Sir John Franklin

7. The Franklin expedition sailed with two ships. What were they called?

Answer: HMS Erebus and HMS Terror

8. Who crossed the Pacific on the raft Kon-Tiki in 1947?

Answer: Thor Heyerdahl

9. In 1947, Kon-Tiki sailed from Peru toward which region?

Answer: Polynesia

10. Which naturalist sailed on HMS Beagle during the voyage that began in 1831?

Answer: Charles Darwin

11. What voyage helped inspire Charles Darwin's later theory of evolution?

Answer: The Voyage of the Beagle

12. Who performed the first spacewalk in 1965?

Answer: Alexei Leonov

EASY EXPLORERS AND EXPEDITIONS TRIVIA

1. Which explorer reached the Caribbean in 1492 while sailing for Spain?

Answer: Christopher Columbus

2. Whose expedition completed the first circumnavigation of Earth in 1522?

Answer: Ferdinand Magellan

3. Who became the first person to walk on the Moon in 1969?

Answer: Neil Armstrong

4. Which cosmonaut became the first human in space in 1961?

Answer: Yuri Gagarin

5. Who was the first woman in space, in 1963?

Answer: Valentina Tereshkova

6. Which polar explorer reached the South Pole in 1911?

Answer: Roald Amundsen

7. Who commanded HMS Endeavour on his first Pacific voyage beginning in 1768?

Answer: James Cook

8. Which Venetian traveler is associated with journeys to Asia in the 13th century?

Answer: Marco Polo

9. Who was the Moroccan traveler who journeyed across Africa and Asia in the 14th century?

Answer: Ibn Battuta

10. Which Chinese admiral led major treasure voyages during the early 1400s?

Answer: Zheng He

11. Who co-led the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 1804 to 1806?

Answer: Meriwether Lewis

12. Which explorer co-led the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Meriwether Lewis?

Answer: William Clark

13. Who traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition as an interpreter and guide?

Answer: Sacagawea

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/explorers-and-expeditions>