

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

Famous Explorers Trivia trivia looks at the navigators, trailblazers, and expedition leaders whose journeys reshaped maps and connected distant regions. From early seafaring voyages to polar expeditions, it offers a family-friendly mix of easy, funny, and hard facts about the people behind some of history's best-known discoveries.

HARD FAMOUS EXPLORERS TRIVIA

1. In 1858, Speke and Burton reached which major African lake together?

Answer: Lake Tanganyika

2. Name the lake reached by John Hanning Speke and Richard Francis Burton on their 1858 expedition.?

Answer: Lake Tanganyika

3. During the same expedition that reached Lake Tanganyika, in what year did John Speke first see Lake Victoria?

Answer: 1858

4. What year marks John Speke's first sighting of Lake Victoria?

Answer: 1858

5. Amundsen's South Pole party planted its achievement in history on what exact date?

Answer: December 14, 1911

6. Which year belongs to Amundsen's South Pole arrival?

Answer: 1911

7. Hiram Bingham's 1911 visit, aided in part by local residents, is tied to what site?

Answer: Machu Picchu

8. Not quite a solo 'Eureka!' moment: Bingham's 1911 trip, helped by local residents, centered on what mountain site?

Answer: Machu Picchu

9. Before turning back toward Portugal, Bartolomeu Dias reached which ocean?

Answer: Indian Ocean

10. What ocean did Bartolomeu Dias enter before reversing course for Portugal?

Answer: Indian Ocean

11. James Clark Ross identified the position of what geophysical target in 1831?

Answer: The North Magnetic Pole

12. In 1831, Ross located which pole specifically—the magnetic one in the north, not the geographic one?

Answer: The North Magnetic Pole

13. Bertram Thomas published his Empty Quarter crossing account 'Arabia Felix' in what year?

Answer: 1932

14. What year saw the publication of Bertram Thomas's 'Arabia Felix'?

Answer: 1932

FUNNY FAMOUS EXPLORERS TRIVIA

1. When Henry Morton Stanley reportedly delivered history's most politely awkward meetup line, 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume?', what year was it?

Answer: 1871

2. That famously stiff-sounding greeting to David Livingstone is linked to Stanley's meeting with him in which year?

Answer: 1871

3. True or false: The line 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume?' is associated with an 1871 meeting.?

Answer: True

4. Name the dog who joined Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's expedition because apparently even epic journeys need a good boy.?

Answer: Seaman

5. Lewis and Clark didn't travel alone. What was the name of their expedition dog?

Answer: Seaman

6. True or false: Lewis and Clark's expedition included a dog named Seaman.?

Answer: True

7. Fridtjof Nansen chose a bold strategy in the Arctic: what was the name of the vessel he designed to drift with the ice instead of fighting it?

Answer: Fram

8. Which ship did Nansen design with the wonderfully stubborn plan of letting Arctic ice do the towing?

Answer: Fram

9. Which explorer is linked to the line 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume?' meeting David Livingstone in 1871?

Answer: Henry Morton Stanley

10. The phrase 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume?' is tied to whose meeting with David Livingstone?

Answer: Henry Morton Stanley

11. Whose expedition included a dog named Seaman: Lewis and Clark's, or Nansen's Arctic voyage?

Answer: Lewis and Clark's expedition

12. Seaman was the dog on the expedition led by which two explorers?

Answer: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

13. Which pair of explorers had a dog named Seaman along for the ride?

Answer: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

FUN FAMOUS EXPLORERS TRIVIA

1. Whose imperial backing helped send Zheng He's biggest treasure fleets across the seas?

Answer: The Yongle Emperor

2. True or false: Ferdinand Magellan personally captained the surviving ship all the way back to Spain in 1522.?

Answer: False

3. Which major award did Fridtjof Nansen receive in 1922?

Answer: The Nobel Peace Prize

4. Roald Amundsen didn't just race southâ he also became the first explorer to do what entirely by ship?

Answer: Navigate the Northwest Passage

5. About a month after Amundsen reached the South Pole in 1911, which explorer arrived there in 1912?

Answer: Robert Falcon Scott

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

Answer: Endurance

7. Thor Heyerdahl gave his 1947 raft what memorable name?

Answer: Kon-Tiki

8. In Norse saga tradition, Leif Erikson's North American settlement is linked with what place-name?

Answer: Vinland

9. Bartolomeu Dias first gave the Cape of Good Hope a stormier original name. What was it?

Answer: The Cape of Storms

10. After his circumnavigation, which explorer was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I?

Answer: Francis Drake

11. What year made Amelia Earhart the first passenger to cross the Atlantic by airplane?

Answer: 1928

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

Answer: Matthew Henson

13. Who flew over the South Pole in 1929?

Answer: Richard Evelyn Byrd

FAMOUS EXPLORERS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which U.S. president commissioned the Lewis and Clark Expedition after the Louisiana Purchase?

Answer: President Thomas Jefferson

2. In what year did the Lewis and Clark Expedition begin?

Answer: 1804

3. Who explored the Niger River in West Africa?

Answer: Mungo Park

4. Mungo Park's journeys focused on which part of Africa?

Answer: West Africa

5. Who identified Lake Victoria as the source of the Nile in 1858?

Answer: John Hanning Speke

6. Which explorer completed an overland journey to the Pacific Ocean in 1793?

Answer: Alexander Mackenzie

7. The city of Vancouver in Canada was named after which explorer?

Answer: George Vancouver

8. Who was the first to circumnavigate Australia?

Answer: Matthew Flinders

9. Whose final expedition disappeared while seeking the Northwest Passage?

Answer: John Franklin

10. Who became the first European known to cross the Empty Quarter in 1931?

Answer: Bertram Thomas

11. As a young naturalist, who sailed on the HMS Beagle?

Answer: Charles Darwin

12. Who became the first American to orbit Earth in 1962?

Answer: John Glenn

EASY FAMOUS EXPLORERS TRIVIA

1. Which explorer reached the Caribbean on his first voyage in 1492?

Answer: Christopher Columbus

2. Who became the first explorer to reach the South Pole in 1911?

Answer: Roald Amundsen

3. Which Norse explorer is commonly credited with reaching North America around the year 1000?

Answer: Leif Erikson

4. Ibn Battuta was a traveler from which country?

Answer: Morocco

5. Who brought worldwide attention to Machu Picchu in 1911?

Answer: Hiram Bingham

6. Which explorer commanded major Chinese treasure voyages during the Ming dynasty?

Answer: Zheng He

7. Who organized the expedition that began the first circumnavigation of the globe in 1519?

Answer: Ferdinand Magellan

8. After Magellan died, who completed the first circumnavigation?

Answer: Juan Sebastián Elcano

9. Which British explorer is known for voyages across the Pacific Ocean?

Answer: James Cook

10. Which explorer is famous for travels to Asia and for a book describing his journeys?

Answer: Marco Polo

11. Who co-led the Lewis and Clark Expedition across western North America alongside William Clark?

Answer: Meriwether Lewis

12. Which expedition was co-led by William Clark and Meriwether Lewis?

Answer: The Lewis and Clark Expedition

13. Who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932?

Answer: Amelia Earhart

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