

Folk Music Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Folk Music trivia invites you into a tradition rooted in oral storytelling, regional customs, and songs passed from one generation to the next. From classic ballads and protest anthems to well-known performers and surprising facts, it offers an engaging mix of easy, funny, and more challenging questions for a wide range of players.

HARD FOLK MUSIC TRIVIA

1. In what year did the first volume of Francis James Child's ballad collection appear?

Answer: 1882

2. Who created the Roud Folk Song Index?

Answer: Steve Roud

3. Which collector is specifically associated with gathering both English folk songs and morris dances?

Answer: Cecil Sharp

4. Name the early collector of English folk songs identified here as Sabine Baring-Gould.?

Answer: Sabine Baring-Gould

5. Which folk revival figure co-wrote the 1950 book "The Singing Englishman"?

Answer: A. L. Lloyd

6. The Newport Jazz Festival came first; in what year did that earlier festival begin?

Answer: 1954

7. What was the founding year of the Newport Folk Festival?

Answer: 1959

8. Who ran the Folklore Center in Greenwich Village?

Answer: Israel G. Young

9. Which record-label founder is tied to the 1948 launch of Folkways Records?

Answer: Moses Asch

10. Since 1987, what institution has served as the steward of Folkways Records?

Answer: Smithsonian Folkways

11. Alan Lomax published "The Land Where the Blues Began" in which year?

Answer: 1993

12. What is the title of Jean Ritchie's 1955 book documenting her family's traditions?

Answer: Singing Family of the Cumberlands

13. How many Child Ballads are commonly counted in the standard numbering?

Answer: 305

14. What alternate name is commonly used for the Appalachian dulcimer?

Answer: mountain dulcimer

FUNNY FOLK MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Which traditional folk song sends a frog into the dating world with marriage on his mind?

Answer: "Frog Went A-Courting."

2. What is the title of the 19th-century American folk song with the comic title character Old Dan Tucker?

Answer: "Old Dan Tucker."

3. In the comic folk song, which animal absolutely refuses to take the hint and keeps returning?

Answer: The cat in "The Cat Came Back."

4. Which widely known humorous folk-style song begins the culinary chaos with an old lady swallowing a fly?

Answer: "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly."

5. Which novelty hit from 1944 made listeners wonder whether the lyrics were nonsense or just having a very good time?

Answer: "Mairzy Doats."

6. Who had the hit recording of "The Laughing Policeman" in 1922?

Answer: Charles Penrose.

7. "Yakety Yak" brought comic storytelling to a 1958 recording by which group?

Answer: The Coasters.

8. If your chewing gum loses its flavour on the bedpost overnight, whose hit are you dealing with?

Answer: Lonnie Donegan's.

9. Which novelty folk song is powered by the sort of family-tree joke that makes everyone reach for a pencil?

Answer: "I'm My Own Grandpa."

10. Which comic parody cheerfully rolls meatballs into the orbit of "On Top of Old Smoky"?

Answer: "On Top of Spaghetti."

11. Who wrote the song "A Boy Named Sue"?

Answer: Shel Silverstein.

12. Whose live recording of "A Boy Named Sue" won a Grammy?

Answer: Johnny Cash's.

13. "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" borrowed its tune from which piece by Ponchielli?

Answer: "Dance of the Hours."

FUN FOLK MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Which famous filmmaker, better known for crime epics than acoustic guitars, directed the Bob Dylan documentary "No Direction Home"?

Answer: Martin Scorsese directed the Bob Dylan documentary "No Direction Home."

2. The title "No Direction Home" comes from a line in which Bob Dylan song?

Answer: It comes from a line in Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone."

3. Name the manager who had both Bob Dylan and Janis Joplin on his client list.?

Answer: Albert Grossman managed both Bob Dylan and Janis Joplin.

4. If you walked into the world of the 2013 film "Inside Llewyn Davis," which musical scene would you be entering?

Answer: The early-1960s folk scene.

5. The banjo's deeper family history traces back to instrument traditions from what region?

Answer: The banjo has roots in West African instrument traditions.

6. The mbira is especially associated with traditional music from which country?

Answer: The mbira is strongly associated with Zimbabwean traditional music.

7. Which instrument is the one most strongly linked here with Russian folk music: balalaika, nyckelharpa, or didgeridoo?

Answer: Balalaika.

8. What is the name of Sweden's traditional keyed fiddle?

Answer: The nyckelharpa is the traditional keyed fiddle of Sweden.

9. Flamenco's story is especially centered in which Spanish region?

Answer: Andalusia is central to the history of flamenco.

10. If your road trip playlist ends at the Newport Folk Festival, which U.S. state should your GPS announce?

Answer: Rhode Island.

11. Which U.S. state claims the dulcimer as its official state instrument?

Answer: Kentucky.

12. Which folk instrument skips the bow and instead uses a hand-cranked wheel rubbing the strings?

Answer: The hurdy-gurdy.

13. True or false: A jaw harp is also commonly called a Jew's harp.?

Answer: True

FOLK MUSIC FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who compiled the collection known as the English and Scottish Popular Ballads?

Answer: Francis James Child

2. Which musician was especially known for preserving Appalachian dulcimer traditions?

Answer: Jean Ritchie

3. Who recorded "Both Sides, Now" in 1967?

Answer: Judy Collins

4. Which folklorist made influential field recordings of traditional singers?

Answer: Alan Lomax

5. If someone records musicians on a porch or in a village instead of in a formal studio, what is that called?

Answer: A field recording

6. Who released the Anthology of American Folk Music in 1952?

Answer: Harry Smith

7. Which traditional ballad is found in both Britain and North America?

Answer: Barbara Allen

8. Which song is often described as Australia's unofficial national song?

Answer: Waltzing Matilda

9. What is the name of the frame drum used in Irish traditional music?

Answer: The bodhrán

10. Which instrument in this set is a long-necked plucked instrument of Indian music?

Answer: The sitar

11. What is the name of the West African harp-lute?

Answer: The kora

12. Which island in Nova Scotia is famous for its fiddle tradition?

Answer: Cape Breton Island

EASY FOLK MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Who wrote the folk classic "This Land Is Your Land"?

Answer: Woody Guthrie wrote "This Land Is Your Land."

2. At which festival did Bob Dylan famously play an electric set in 1965?

Answer: Bob Dylan played an electric set at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965.

3. Which singer was an early champion of Bob Dylan's songwriting?

Answer: Joan Baez was an early champion of Bob Dylan's songwriting.

4. Pete Seeger was a member of which folk group?

Answer: Pete Seeger was a member of the Weavers.

5. Who is often called the father of bluegrass?

Answer: Bill Monroe is often called the father of bluegrass.

6. Which musician became famous for a three-finger banjo style?

Answer: Earl Scruggs became famous for a three-finger banjo style.

7. Which artist is closely associated with the song "Goodnight, Irene"?

Answer: Lead Belly is closely associated with the song "Goodnight, Irene."

8. The 1958 hit version of "Tom Dooley" was recorded by which group?

Answer: "Tom Dooley" was a hit for the Kingston Trio in 1958.

9. "We Shall Overcome" became an anthem of which movement in the United States?

Answer: "We Shall Overcome" became an anthem of the U.S. civil rights movement.

10. Who wrote "Blowin' in the Wind" in 1962?

Answer: Bob Dylan wrote "Blowin' in the Wind" in 1962.

11. The charango is closely associated with which mountain region?

Answer: The charango is closely associated with the Andes.

12. Which singer was one half of Simon & Garfunkel?

Answer: Paul Simon was one half of Simon & Garfunkel.

13. Playful one: if your playlist starts with "This Land Is Your Land," whose name should pop into your head first?

Answer: Woody Guthrie should come to mind first because he wrote "This Land Is Your Land."

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/folk-music>