

## Jazz History Trivia Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Jazz History Trivia trivia explores the artists, eras, and landmark recordings that helped define one of the 20th century's most influential musical forms. From early New Orleans ensembles and the Swing Era to bebop, cool jazz, and beyond, it offers a lively way to test what you know while picking up context about jazz's evolution.

### HARD JAZZ HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which early New Orleans cornet legend is remembered in part because he never left behind a commercial recording?

Answer: Buddy Bolden

2. When Louis Armstrong went to New York in 1924, whose orchestra did he join?

Answer: Fletcher Henderson's orchestra

3. Benny Goodman's landmark Carnegie Hall jazz concert took place in what year?

Answer: 1938

4. The Savoy Ballroom stood in which New York neighborhood?

Answer: Harlem

5. Which Harlem club is most closely identified as a key incubator of bebop?

Answer: Minton's Playhouse

6. Which record label was founded in 1939 by Alfred Lion and Max Margulis?

Answer: Blue Note Records

7. John Coltrane's 'A Love Supreme' came out on which label in 1965?

Answer: Impulse! Records

8. Founded in Munich in 1969, which label became a major home for jazz recordings?

Answer: ECM Records

9. Norman Granz launched which label in 1956?

Answer: Verve Records

10. During part of the 1970s, to which city did the Newport Jazz Festival relocate?

Answer: New York City

11. In Miles Davis's first great quintet, which tenor saxophonist held the front-line chair?

Answer: John Coltrane

12. Which player belonged to Miles Davis's second great quintet: Wayne Shorter or John Coltrane?

Answer: Wayne Shorter

13. Ornette Coleman's album 'Free Jazz' was recorded in what year?

Answer: 1960

14. Name the pianist often cited as a pioneering figure in avant-garde jazz.?

Answer: Cecil Taylor

#### FUNNY JAZZ HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which jazz giant answered to the nickname "Satchmo," proving that some legends collect better aliases than the rest of us collect socks?

Answer: Louis Armstrong

2. If someone in a jazz club whispered "Bird just walked in," which saxophone legend were they talking about?

Answer: Charlie Parker

3. Who was known as "Lady Day," a nickname far more elegant than most stage names ever manage to be?

Answer: Billie Holiday

4. Count Basie sounds aristocratic, but what was Basie's actual first name?

Answer: William

5. Duke Ellington had a title in his nickname, but what was his real first name?

Answer: Edward

6. Before Sun Ra arrived from the cosmos, what name was on his birth certificate here on Earth?

Answer: Herman Poole Blount

7. Dizzy Gillespie sounded permanently caffeinated, but what was his actual first name?

Answer: John

8. Why is Dave Brubeck's "Take Five" called "Take Five" because everyone wanted a snack break, or because of its meter?

Answer: Because it is in 5/4 time

9. Thelonious Monk already had an unforgettable first name, but what wonderfully round middle name did he also have?

Answer: Sphere

10. Which Miles Davis album took home the 1971 Grammy for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album?

Answer: Bitches Brew

11. Birdland wasn't named after a flock problem. It was named after whose nickname?

Answer: Charlie Parker

12. The word "bebop" sounds like it bounced down a staircase on purpose. According to jazz history, it echoes what?

Answer: Scat-style syllables

13. In early printings, the word "jazz" often showed up with what alternate spelling?

Answer: Jass

#### FUN JAZZ HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which jazz figure boldly claimed he had invented jazz?

Answer: Jelly Roll Morton

2. What Miles Davis album arrived in 1970 with a title spicy enough to make jazz history blush?

Answer: Bitches Brew

3. John Coltrane released which landmark album in 1965: A Love Supreme or Blue Train?

Answer: A Love Supreme

4. Which Herbie Hancock album set sail in 1965?

Answer: Maiden Voyage

5. Before it was a jazz favorite, it was a show tune—what song did John Coltrane record as a jazz version in 1960?

Answer: My Favorite Things

6. If someone says "Round Midnight," which pianist-composer is most strongly linked with it?

Answer: Thelonious Monk

7. Max Roach released which powerful album in 1960?

Answer: We Insist! Freedom Now Suite

8. True or false: Freedom Now Suite took on civil rights themes in jazz.?

Answer: True

9. What group got rolling in the mid-1950s with a name that sounds like they were delivering the news at top speed?

Answer: Jazz Messengers

10. Which jazz group was formed in 1970: Weather Report or the Hot Five?

Answer: Weather Report

11. The very first Newport Jazz Festival was held in what year?

Answer: 1954

12. What year launched the first Montreux Jazz Festival?

Answer: 1967

13. Compared with bebop, which style is often described as having a more relaxed sound?

Answer: Cool jazz

## JAZZ HISTORY FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which city is widely regarded as the birthplace of jazz?

Answer: New Orleans

2. In New Orleans, what famous gathering place is linked to early African and Afro-Creole music traditions?

Answer: Congo Square

3. What is the name of the historic jazz venue in the French Quarter known for traditional performances?

Answer: Preservation Hall

4. Which New Orleans neighborhood is especially famous for jazz tourism?

Answer: French Quarter

5. Which city became famous for riff-based big band jazz?

Answer: Kansas City

6. West Coast jazz found an important home in which city?

Answer: Los Angeles

7. Which Manhattan neighborhood has long been a major spot for jazz clubs?

Answer: Greenwich Village

8. Major jazz performance programming in New York is based at what arts complex?

Answer: Lincoln Center

9. At Rutgers University in Newark, what institution is dedicated to jazz studies?

Answer: Institute of Jazz Studies

10. Which jazz great was a pianist, composer, and arranger who worked in both swing and bebop?

Answer: Mary Lou Williams

11. Who was nicknamed 'Prez'?

Answer: Lester Young

12. Which musician is especially known for his jazz guitar style?

Answer: Wes Montgomery

## EASY JAZZ HISTORY TRIVIA

1. Which jazz legend was born in New Orleans in 1901?

Answer: Louis Armstrong

2. Who led a long-running big band that became one of jazz's best-known ensembles?

Answer: Duke Ellington

3. Which singer was famously called the 'First Lady of Song'?

Answer: Ella Fitzgerald

4. Charlie Parker is most associated with which instrument?

Answer: The alto saxophone

5. Which influential jazz singer is the answer if the clue is Billie Holiday?

Answer: Billie Holiday

6. Which major bandleader came from Kansas City?

Answer: Count Basie

7. Who led the Jazz Messengers for many years?

Answer: Art Blakey

8. Which jazz figure was both a pianist and a composer?

Answer: Thelonious Monk

9. Miles Davis led which famous studio album?

Answer: Kind of Blue

10. What is the opening track on Miles Davis's album 'Kind of Blue'?

Answer: So What

11. Which tune became a signature hit for the Dave Brubeck Quartet?

Answer: Take Five

12. 'Take Five' appears on which album?

Answer: Time Out

13. Who composed the landmark jazz piece 'Giant Steps'?

Answer: John Coltrane

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