

Nursery Rhymes Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts
Printable Trivia Pack

Nursery Rhymes trivia explores the memorable lines, storybook figures, and surprising origins of traditional rhymes that have been passed down for generations. From familiar favorites to lesser-known oddities, it offers a family-friendly way to test what you know about a body of folklore that has shaped childhood culture in the English-speaking world.

HARD NURSERY RHYMES TRIVIA

1. In what year does the earliest known printed version of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" appear in "Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book"?

Answer: 1744

2. "Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake" reaches print from which broad historical period?

Answer: The late 17th century

3. Before illustrators helped fix its modern image, "Humpty Dumpty" was originally presented as what?

Answer: A riddle

4. What familiar visual identity of Humpty Dumpty became standard mainly through illustration rather than from the original text itself?

Answer: An egg

5. "Ring a Ring o' Roses" has documented forms on both sides of the Atlantic. Which pair of regions matches that record?

Answer: Britain and North America

6. In the 19th century, "Pop Goes the Weasel" first surged in popularity chiefly as what kind of piece?

Answer: A dance tune

7. By what century had "Goosey Goosey Gander" already been collected in print?

Answer: The 18th century

8. Who wrote "Wee Willie Winkie" in Scots in 1841?

Answer: William Miller

9. Which French melody shares its tune with "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"?

Answer: Ah! vous dirai-je, maman

10. Who wrote the 1806 poem that later became known as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"?

Answer: Jane Taylor

11. Which writer published the 1830 poem on which "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is based?

Answer: Sarah Josepha Hale

12. "Little Bo-Peep" appears in print in "Songs for the Nursery" in what year?

Answer: 1805

13. Which London church is most strongly associated with "Oranges and Lemons"?

Answer: St Clement Danes

14. If a scholar wants a textbook example of a cumulative rhyme, which nursery piece fits best?

Answer: The House That Jack Built

FUNNY NURSERY RHYMES TRIVIA

1. In "Hey Diddle Diddle," which two household items turn the nursery into a slapstick chase scene by running off together?

Answer: A dish and a spoon.

2. Which instrument is the cat playing in "The Cat and the Fiddle"?

Answer: A fiddle.

3. Who has misplaced her sheep in the rhyme "Little Bo-Peep"?

Answer: Little Bo-Peep, the shepherdess.

4. In "Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling," what oddly incomplete footwear situation does John have going on?

Answer: He is wearing one shoe.

5. In "To Market, To Market," which animal gets the unexpectedly domestic image of being dressed for home?

Answer: A fat pig.

6. In the famous wording of "As I Was Going to St. Ives," how many wives are mentioned?

Answer: Seven wives.

7. Which rhyme gives birds the tiny-fashion treatment with coats and shoes?

Answer: "Little Robin Redbreast."

8. In "Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat," what is the cat asked?

Answer: Where it has been.

9. In "I Had a Little Nut Tree," which pair of fancy foods sounds like a snack for royalty?

Answer: A silver nutmeg and a golden pear.

10. "A Wise Old Owl" makes its point by contrasting which two actions?

Answer: Seeing and speaking.

11. Which nursery rhyme keeps repeating the serving temperature like a bowl that really wants to be noticed?

Answer: "Pease Porridge Hot."

12. When the weather is being especially rude, which rhyme talks directly to it and tells it

to leave?

Answer: "Rain, Rain, Go Away."

13. In "The Queen of Hearts," who gets sent to steal some tarts?

Answer: The knave.

FUN NURSERY RHYMES TRIVIA

1. Who edited the 1897 anthology "The Nursery Rhyme Book"?

Answer: Andrew Lang edited the 1897 anthology "The Nursery Rhyme Book."

2. Which scholar teamed up with Peter Opie on major nursery rhyme studies?

Answer: Iona Opie co-authored major nursery rhyme studies with Peter Opie.

3. Peter Opie was the co-author half of a famous nursery lore duo. Who was he?

Answer: Peter Opie co-authored influential books on nursery lore with Iona Opie.

4. Who published "The Nursery Rhymes of England" in 1842?

Answer: James Orchard Halliwell published "The Nursery Rhymes of England" in 1842.

5. Which 18th-century English publisher is closely associated with children's books?

Answer: John Newbery was an 18th-century English publisher associated with children's books.

6. Whose Victorian artwork would look right at home beside a page of nursery rhymes?

Answer: Kate Greenaway was a Victorian illustrator known for children's book art.

7. Which illustrator worked on collections of traditional nursery rhymes?

Answer: Walter Crane illustrated collections of traditional nursery rhymes.

8. Name the 19th-century illustrator who created art for children's rhymes and stories and shares a medal-famous surname.?

Answer: Randolph Caldecott created illustrations for children's rhymes and stories in the 19th century.

9. Who co-authored a modern reference work on nursery rhymes with the surname Baring-Gould?

Answer: Ceil Baring-Gould co-authored a modern reference work on nursery rhymes.

10. Which tiny-titled nursery rhyme book was published in London around 1744?

Answer: "Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book" was published in London around 1744.

11. John Newbery published which 18th-century nursery rhyme title: "Mother Goose's Melody" or "Lavender's Blue"?

Answer: John Newbery published "Mother Goose's Melody" in the 18th century.

12. What is the title of the well-known 19th-century rhyme collection associated with Halliwell?

Answer: The title is "The Nursery Rhymes of England."

13. What kind of small printed booklets helped circulate nursery rhymes in Britain?

Answer: Printed chapbooks helped circulate nursery rhymes in Britain.

NURSERY RHYMES FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What kind of song is meant to help a child drift off to sleep?

Answer: A lullaby

2. In a song or rhyme, what do you call a line or phrase that repeats?

Answer: A refrain

3. Which term fits a song that keeps adding new parts with each verse?

Answer: A cumulative song

4. Words like sound effects in a rhyme are called what?

Answer: Onomatopoeia

5. True or false: A textual variant is an alternate wording of the same rhyme.?

Answer: True

6. Which kind of verse loves playful sounds more than strict logical meaning?

Answer: Nonsense verse

7. Which nursery rhyme is known for having many lyrical versions across the English-speaking world?

Answer: Ring a Ring o' Roses

8. This rhyme has one foot in dancing and one foot in nursery tradition. Which is it?

Answer: Pop Goes the Weasel

9. In which rhyme do soldiers march up and down a hill?

Answer: The Grand Old Duke of York

10. Which nursery rhyme is about a bridge collapsing?

Answer: London Bridge Is Falling Down

11. Who is described as a merry old soul?

Answer: Old King Cole

12. At the start of her rhyme, where does Old Mother Hubbard go for her dog?

Answer: To the cupboard

EASY NURSERY RHYMES TRIVIA

1. Which nursery rhyme is about a figure who falls from a wall?

Answer: Humpty Dumpty

2. In which nursery rhyme does a mouse run up a clock?

Answer: Hickory Dickory Dock

3. Who is sitting on a tuffet at the start of the rhyme?

Answer: Little Miss Muffet

4. Which rhyme says a boy pulled a plum out of a pie?

Answer: Little Jack Horner

5. Which nursery rhyme tells its character to blow his horn?

Answer: Little Boy Blue

6. What kind of animal is featured in "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep"?

Answer: A sheep

7. Which pair of children go up a hill for water?

Answer: Jack and Jill

8. Which nursery rhyme talks to a star in the night sky?

Answer: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

9. Which nursery rhyme opens by saying the name Mary twice?

Answer: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

10. Which nursery rhyme is about a farmer and animal sounds?

Answer: Old MacDonald Had a Farm

11. In which rhyme does a cow jump over the moon?

Answer: Hey Diddle Diddle

12. Which lullaby mentions a cradle in a treetop?

Answer: Rock-a-bye Baby

13. Which nursery rhyme is about Georgie Porgie kissing girls and making them cry?

Answer: Georgie Porgie

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/nursery-rhymes>