# Amazing World Records

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What is the largest living animal by mass?
   - A. Blue whale
   - B. African elephant
   - C. Whale shark
   - D. Giraffe

   Correct answer: A. Blue whale
   Blue whales outweigh every other living animal species.

2. Which living land animal is tallest?
   - A. Ostrich
   - B. African elephant
   - C. Giraffe
   - D. Moose

   Correct answer: C. Giraffe
   A giraffe's long neck and legs make it the tallest living land animal.

3. Which mountain has the highest summit above sea level?
   - A. K2
   - B. Mount Everest
   - C. Kilimanjaro
   - D. Mont Blanc

   Correct answer: B. Mount Everest
   The sea-level definition matters: other mountains lead under different measurements.

4. Which ocean is largest by surface area?
   - A. Arctic
   - B. Atlantic
   - C. Indian
   - D. Pacific

   Correct answer: D. Pacific
   The Pacific covers more area than any other ocean.

5. Which land animal is famous for the highest running speed over short distances?
   A. Lion
   B. Cheetah
   C. Greyhound
   D. Horse
   Correct answer: B. Cheetah
   Cheetahs are specialized sprinters, not long-distance endurance runners.

6. Which living trees include the tallest known individual trees?
   A. Coast redwoods
   B. Giant sequoias
   C. English oaks
   D. Baobabs
   Correct answer: A. Coast redwoods
   Coast redwoods lead in height; giant sequoias are especially notable for trunk volume.

7. Who became the first human to travel into space in 1961?
   A. Neil Armstrong
   B. Alan Shepard
   C. John Glenn
   D. Yuri Gagarin
   Correct answer: D. Yuri Gagarin
   Gagarin orbited Earth aboard Vostok 1 on April 12, 1961.

8. Which is Earth's largest desert when polar deserts are included?
   A. Gobi
   B. Sahara
   C. Antarctic desert
   D. Arabian Desert
   Correct answer: C. Antarctic desert
   A desert is defined by low precipitation, not heat; Antarctica is the largest.

9. Challenger Deep lies within which ocean trench?
   A. Mariana Trench
   B. Java Trench
   C. Puerto Rico Trench
   D. Peru–Chile Trench
   Correct answer: A. Mariana Trench
   Challenger Deep is the deepest known part of the ocean.

10. Who won eight swimming gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics?

A. Ryan Lochte
B. Mark Spitz
C. Ian Thorpe
D. Michael Phelps

Correct answer: D. Michael Phelps
Phelps won eight events at one Games, surpassing Spitz's seven-gold 1972 performance.

11. Which living bird species has the greatest wingspan?

A. Bald eagle
B. Andean condor
C. Wandering albatross
D. Emperor penguin

Correct answer: C. Wandering albatross
The wandering albatross's long wings are adapted for efficient ocean soaring.

12. Which lake is the world's deepest?

A. Lake Superior
B. Lake Baikal
C. Lake Victoria
D. Lake Titicaca

Correct answer: B. Lake Baikal
Siberia's Lake Baikal reaches more than 1,600 meters deep.

13. Which bird makes an annual migration between Arctic breeding grounds and Antarctic waters?

A. Atlantic puffin
B. Emperor penguin
C. Bald eagle
D. Arctic tern

Correct answer: D. Arctic tern
The Arctic tern's pole-to-pole migration is among the longest known animal migrations.

14. Which mountain is taller than Everest when measured from its underwater base to its summit?

A. Mauna Kea
B. Mount Fuji
C. Mount Elbrus
D. Denali

Correct answer: A. Mauna Kea
Much of Mauna Kea rises from the ocean floor, so its base-to-summit height exceeds Everest's.

15. Which mountain's summit is farthest from Earth's center, because Earth bulges at the Equator?

A. K2
B. Everest
C. Chimborazo
D. Aconcagua

Correct answer: C. Chimborazo
Ecuador's Chimborazo benefits from Earth's equatorial bulge even though Everest is higher above sea level.