April Fools’ Day Trivia

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. On which date should a calendar put the annual observance called April Fools’ Day?
   A. April 1
   B. April 15
   C. March 31
   D. May 1

2. The French expression poisson d’avril is associated with April Fools’ Day. What animal appears in its literal English translation?
   A. A fox
   B. A hare
   C. A fish
   D. A rooster

3. A 1957 BBC television item showed people taking strands of what food from bushes as if they had grown there?
   A. Blueberries
   B. Spaghetti
   C. Almonds
   D. Rice

4. On April 1, 2004, Google really launched a service that sounded too generous to be true. What kind of service was Gmail?
   A. Music streaming
   B. Weather forecasting
   C. Video calling
   D. Email

5. During a Pennsylvania April Fools’ Day prank recorded by the U.S. Postal Service, what grew surprisingly long as a mail carrier pulled it out of a door slot?
   A. A shoelace
   B. A mock envelope
   C. A kitchen towel
   D. A postal route map

6. What did city streets become in the April Fools’ edition called Ms. PAC-Maps?
   A. A maze for the video game character
   B. A musical staff that played notes
   C. A drawing in a virtual coloring book
   D. A racetrack for pedal cars

7. The Guardian’s 1977 guide to the invented island of San Serriffe used geographic names drawn from which trade’s vocabulary?
   A. Watchmaking
   B. Shipbuilding
   C. Wool weaving
   D. Printing and typesetting

8. When historian Joseph Boskin made up a story about an April Fools’ king, what inspired the name King Kugel?
   A. A medieval coin
   B. A kind of crown
   C. A noodle casserole
   D. A board game piece

9. An April Fools’ Google Maps game asked players to find a familiar traveler in busy illustrated scenes. Who were they looking for?
   A. Waldo
   B. Carmen Sandiego
   C. Paddington
   D. Tintin

10. A banner on MIT’s website in 1998 announced a fictional purchase of the university and showed ears atop its dome. Which company supposedly made the offer?
   A. Mattel
   B. Kodak
   C. Hasbro
   D. Disney

11. In his 1686 account of April Fools’ Day, English antiquarian John Aubrey noted that which other country observed the custom?
   A. Portugal
   B. Greece
   C. Germany
   D. Sweden

12. In Eduard De Dene’s 1561 poem, what does the nobleman ask his servant to do as an April Fools’ trick?

A. Act as referee in a game of chess
B. Go on errands that cannot succeed
C. Write an invitation in an unfamiliar language
D. Wear his uniform with the buttons unfastened

13. In Frederick Burr Opper’s 1895 Puck illustration Trying to Make an April Fool of Him, which figure is the intended target?

A. Brother Jonathan
B. Father Time
C. The Statue of Liberty
D. Uncle Sam

14. A 1796 handbill requested April 1 delivery of fool’s coats and caps in Middletown. Which state was that Middletown in?

A. Connecticut
B. New York
C. New Jersey
D. Rhode Island

15. A 1508 French poem uses poisson d’avril. What would make that citation firmer evidence of an April Fools’ Day custom?

A. An illustration of the poem’s printer
B. A list of fish sold at a spring market
C. An explicit link between a prank and the first of April
D. A later edition using the same spelling