December Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which December 10 observance marks the United Nations' adoption of a declaration about rights and freedoms in 1948?
   - A. Human Rights Day
   - B. World Oceans Day
   - C. International Literacy Day
   - D. World Teachers’ Day

   Correct answer: A. Human Rights Day
   The UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. Human Rights Day marks that anniversary.

2. In December 1903, the Wright brothers tested their powered Flyer on the coast of which U.S. state?
   - A. South Carolina
   - B. New Jersey
   - C. North Carolina
   - D. Florida

   Correct answer: C. North Carolina
   The flights took place at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Orville Wright piloted the first flight on December 17.

3. Which prize is presented in Oslo at the December 10 Nobel ceremonies?
   - A. The Nobel Prize in Literature
   - B. The Nobel Peace Prize
   - C. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry
   - D. The Nobel Prize in Physics

   Correct answer: B. The Nobel Peace Prize
   The Peace Prize is presented in Norway. Stockholm, Sweden, hosts the ceremonies for the other Nobel Prizes.

4. What part of a farm's environment does the FAO focus on each year on December 5?
   - A. The wind across open fields
   - B. The sunlight that reaches the leaves
   - C. The insects that carry pollen
   - D. The soil where crops take root

   Correct answer: D. The soil where crops take root
   The Food and Agriculture Organization marks World Soil Day to draw attention to healthy soil and its stewardship.

5. On December 2, 1971, six emirates formed which federation?

A. The Federation of Malaysia
B. The United Arab Emirates
C. The United Republic of Tanzania
D. The Commonwealth of Australia

Correct answer: B. The United Arab Emirates
Six emirates established the United Arab Emirates in December 1971. Ras Al Khaimah became its seventh emirate in February 1972.

6. In the original Blue Marble photograph taken by Apollo 17 in December 1972, which pair of continents is visible?

A. Africa and Antarctica
B. Europe and North America
C. South America and Australia
D. North America and Australia

Correct answer: A. Africa and Antarctica
The Apollo 17 crew took the photograph while traveling toward the Moon. It shows much of Africa and an extensive view of Antarctica.

7. Which country did the expedition led by Roald Amundsen represent when it reached the South Pole in December 1911?

A. Finland
B. Sweden
C. Denmark
D. Norway

Correct answer: D. Norway
Amundsen led a Norwegian expedition aboard the Fram. His team reached the South Pole on December 14.

8. December 7 is International Civil Aviation Day. Which 1944 agreement underlies the observance?

A. The Montreal Protocol on ozone
B. The Geneva Convention on Road Traffic
C. The Chicago Convention
D. The Treaty of Rome

Correct answer: C. The Chicago Convention
The Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed in Chicago on December 7, 1944. It laid a foundation for the International Civil Aviation Organization.

9. Which U.S. law signed on December 28, 1973, established federal protections for threatened and endangered species and their habitats?

A. The Endangered Species Act
B. The Wilderness Act
C. The National Environmental Policy Act
D. The Marine Mammal Protection Act

Correct answer: A. The Endangered Species Act
The Endangered Species Act protects both listed species and the ecosystems they depend on.

10. The United Nations designated December 11 as an annual observance after dedicating 2002 to which kind of landscape?

A. Tropical forests
B. Deserts
C. Rivers
D. Mountains

Correct answer: D. Mountains
International Mountain Day grew out of the International Year of Mountains in 2002. The annual observance began in 2003.

11. Which action did Douglas Engelbart’s group demonstrate live in December 1968 using its experimental NLS system?

A. Scanning a QR code with a smartphone
B. Downloading a mobile app through a store
C. Collaborating on a shared document
D. Sending a message through the World Wide Web

Correct answer: C. Collaborating on a shared document
NLS showed people working together with a shared view of a document. The researchers also demonstrated early video conferencing and hypertext.

12. Earth passes through material associated with which small Solar System body when the Geminid meteor shower peaks in December?

A. Halley
B. Phaethon
C. Swift–Tuttle
D. Tempel–Tuttle

Correct answer: B. Phaethon
NASA identifies 3200 Phaethon as the Geminids’ parent body. The other choices are associated with different showers.

13. Which capital city hosted the conference at which twelve countries signed the Antarctic Treaty on December 1, 1959?

A. Wellington
B. Ottawa
C. Canberra
D. Washington, D.C.

Correct answer: D. Washington, D.C.
The original signatories met in Washington, D.C. The treaty entered into force in June 1961.

14. Which state supplied the ratification that brought the Thirteenth Amendment to the required three-fourths threshold on December 6, 1865?

A. Georgia
B. Virginia
C. Texas
D. Ohio

Correct answer: A. Georgia
Georgia’s December 6 ratification brought the amendment abolishing slavery, with its stated exception, to the required threshold.

15. In which year did the UN General Assembly adopt Resolution 47/3, proclaiming the December 3 observance now called the International Day of Persons with Disabilities?

A. 1975
B. 1948
C. 1992
D. 2006

Correct answer: C. 1992
The General Assembly adopted Resolution 47/3 in October 1992 and set the annual observance for December 3.