Fall Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. In the Northern Hemisphere, which three whole months make up meteorological fall?

A. September, October, and November
B. August, September, and October
C. October, November, and December
D. November, December, and January

Correct answer: A. September, October, and November
Meteorologists group September through November as fall for Northern Hemisphere seasonal comparisons.

2. A nature table has a collection of acorns under a picture of the tree that made them. Which tree belongs on the label?

A. Maple
B. Birch
C. Oak
D. Willow

Correct answer: C. Oak
Acorns are the fruits of oak trees.

3. Leaves lose much of their green color before falling. Which green pigment breaks down?

A. Melanin
B. Chlorophyll
C. Hemoglobin
D. Carotene

Correct answer: B. Chlorophyll
Chlorophyll supplies the green color. As it breaks down, other colors can become visible.

4. Which city hosts the original Oktoberfest at a site called Theresienwiese?

A. Zurich
B. Berlin
C. Vienna
D. Munich

Correct answer: D. Munich
Theresienwiese is the Munich site where Oktoberfest began in 1810.

5. Many monarch butterflies from eastern North America fly south in fall. Where are their main winter forest sites?

A. Southern Florida
B. Central Mexico
C. Nova Scotia
D. Central Alaska

Correct answer: B. Central Mexico
Most eastern migratory monarchs overwinter in oyamel fir forests in central Mexico.

6. A museum label describes some communities in Mexico setting out offerings and flowers for loved ones who have died, near the start of November. Which observance is it about?

A. Día de los Muertos
B. St. Lucia Day
C. Lunar New Year
D. Midsummer

Correct answer: A. Día de los Muertos
UNESCO records Día de los Muertos as a remembrance of deceased loved ones among Indigenous communities in Mexico.

7. A Massachusetts harvest shows cranberries floating on the surface of a flooded bed. What helps the fruit float?

A. Salt released from cranberry leaves
B. A metal shell around the berry
C. A layer of ice at the bottom of the bed
D. Small pockets of air inside the berry

Correct answer: D. Small pockets of air inside the berry
Cranberries have air pockets inside. Those pockets help the detached berries float in water.

8. A yellow leaf’s pigments were present while the leaf was still green. Which pigment group can show yellow or orange after chlorophyll fades?

A. Hemoglobins
B. Chlorophylls
C. Carotenoids
D. Melanins

Correct answer: C. Carotenoids
Carotenoids can show through when declining chlorophyll no longer masks them.

9. In October, Earth crosses a stream of particles left by Halley’s comet. Which meteor shower does that October encounter produce?

A. Orionids
B. Perseids
C. Geminids
D. Lyrids

Correct answer: A. Orionids
The Orionids appear in October when material from Halley’s comet enters Earth’s atmosphere.

10. An Australian astronomy calendar and a Canadian one list the same September equinox. Which labels fit that event?

A. Winter in both countries
B. Fall in Australia and spring in Canada
C. Summer in both countries
D. Spring in Australia and fall in Canada

Correct answer: D. Spring in Australia and fall in Canada
For the Southern Hemisphere the September equinox begins astronomical spring. It begins astronomical fall in the Northern Hemisphere.

11. Munich’s account of the first Oktoberfest dates it to October 1810. What celebration brought people together originally?

A. A citywide victory in a football cup
B. The opening of an Olympic stadium
C. A royal wedding celebration
D. The centenary of a railway station

Correct answer: C. A royal wedding celebration
The festivities celebrated the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese. They included a public horse race.

12. A grower’s guide describes dry harvesting berries for the fresh market and wet harvesting them for many processed products. Which harvest should a shop ask about for baskets of fresh berries?

A. Wet harvest only
B. Dry harvest
C. Harvesting berries after they freeze
D. Harvesting only leaves from flooded plants

Correct answer: B. Dry harvest
The Massachusetts growers’ guide identifies dry harvesting as the method used to collect fruit for the fresh market.

13. In a sample calendar, the September equinox is September 22. Full moons fall on August 9, September 7, October 6, and November 4. Which is the Harvest Moon?

A. November 4
B. September 7
C. August 9
D. October 6

Correct answer: D. October 6
The Harvest Moon is the full moon nearest the autumn equinox. October 6 is 14 days away, while September 7 is 15 days away.

14. An exhibit compares yellow leaves that reveal existing pigments with red leaves that make some new pigments before dropping. Which pigment group contributes to the new red colors?

A. Anthocyanins
B. Chlorophylls
C. Hemoglobins
D. Melanins

Correct answer: A. Anthocyanins
The red coloration in many autumn leaves comes from anthocyanins produced late in the life of the leaf.

15. The first modern World Series in fall 1903 was best of nine. Pittsburgh led three games to one. Boston then won four in a row. What was the final series score?

A. Boston 5, Pittsburgh 4
B. Boston 4, Pittsburgh 3
C. Boston 5, Pittsburgh 3
D. Pittsburgh 5, Boston 4

Correct answer: C. Boston 5, Pittsburgh 3
Boston had one win before the streak. Four more brought it to five wins, enough to end the series, while Pittsburgh stayed at three.