February Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. An international observance on February 13 recalls the start of a United Nations broadcast service in 1946. Which medium does the day celebrate?

A. Radio
B. Television
C. Print newspapers
D. Motion pictures

Correct answer: A. Radio
World Radio Day falls on February 13, the date United Nations Radio was established in 1946.

2. Which designer presented the Paris collection that became known as the New Look on February 12, 1947?

A. Elsa Schiaparelli
B. Cristóbal Balenciaga
C. Christian Dior
D. Pierre Balmain

Correct answer: C. Christian Dior
Christian Dior introduced the collection in Paris. The Victoria and Albert Museum describes its fitted waists and full skirts.

3. During the Apollo 14 mission in February 1971, Alan Shepard brought a piece of sports equipment out during a moonwalk. What sport did he demonstrate?

A. Cricket
B. Golf
C. Tennis
D. Baseball

Correct answer: B. Golf
Shepard used a makeshift golf club and swung at two golf balls on the Moon.

4. The Convention on Wetlands was concluded at Ramsar on February 2, 1971. In which country is Ramsar?

A. Greece
B. India
C. Morocco
D. Iran

Correct answer: D. Iran
Ramsar is in Iran. The treaty takes its informal name from the city where it was concluded.

5. Merriam-Webster traces the name February to the Latin word Februa. What did Februa refer to?

A. A ceremony to open the harbor
B. A festival of purification
C. An annual olive harvest
D. A census of Roman households

Correct answer: B. A festival of purification
The dictionary traces the name of the month to a Latin term for a purification festival.

6. On February 15, 1882, the Dunedin set out from New Zealand on a voyage that helped establish a refrigerated export trade. What was in its cargo?

A. Frozen mutton and lamb
B. Live sheep for breeding
C. Casks of olive oil
D. Sacks of rice

Correct answer: A. Frozen mutton and lamb
Much of the shipment came from Totara Estate and was taken to Port Chalmers. The Dunedin carried the meat frozen on the voyage to Britain.

7. Sámi National Day commemorates the first Sámi national assembly, which opened on February 6, 1917. Which Norwegian city hosted it?

A. Tromsø
B. Oslo
C. Bergen
D. Trondheim

Correct answer: D. Trondheim
The assembly met in Trondheim. Sámi National Day marks the anniversary of that gathering.

8. UNESCO approved the idea of International Mother Language Day in 1999, with observances starting the following year on February 21. Which country proposed it?

A. Brazil
B. Japan
C. Bangladesh
D. Finland

Correct answer: C. Bangladesh
UNESCO credits Bangladesh with proposing the observance. It has been marked internationally since 2000.

9. At a New York meeting of the American Chemical Society on February 8, 1909, Leo Baekeland publicly announced his invention. Which material was it?

A. Bakelite
B. Nylon
C. Cellophane
D. Acrylic glass

Correct answer: A. Bakelite
The lecture announced Bakelite, an early synthetic plastic. It later found uses in molded consumer goods and electrical fittings.

10. A museum compares British money before and after Decimal Day on February 15, 1971. A pound contained 240 old pennies and then 100 new pence. Which pair gives half a pound in the two systems?

A. 50 old pennies and 120 new pence
B. 120 old pennies and 100 new pence
C. 240 old pennies and 50 new pence
D. 120 old pennies and 50 new pence

Correct answer: D. 120 old pennies and 50 new pence
Half of 240 is 120 in the old system. Half of 100 is 50 in the decimal system.

11. Japan’s National Astronomical Observatory places the traditional solar term Risshun on February 3 in its 2021 calendar. Which entry places Setsubun correctly relative to it?

A. February 4, because Setsubun is the day after Risshun.
B. February 3, because Setsubun and Risshun always share a date.
C. February 2, because Setsubun is the day before Risshun.
D. February 5, because Setsubun starts two days after Risshun.

Correct answer: C. February 2, because Setsubun is the day before Risshun.
Setsubun is the day before Risshun in this calendar tradition. When Risshun fell on February 3 in 2021, Setsubun fell on February 2.

12. Chile’s National Library records two milestones for the Act of Independence in February 1818. Which labels correctly distinguish February 2 from February 12?

A. February 2 was the public proclamation. February 12 was ratification.
B. February 2 was ratification. February 12 was the public proclamation.
C. Both dates mark separate public proclamations.
D. Both dates mark separate ratifications.

Correct answer: B. February 2 was ratification. February 12 was the public proclamation.
The library dates the ratification to February 2. The public ceremony proclaiming independence took place on February 12.

13. In a fictional Swedish diary, an entry dated February 17, 1753 is followed by one labeled ‘the next morning.’ Which date fits Sweden’s civil calendar at that transition?

A. March 11, 1753
B. February 18, 1753
C. February 28, 1753
D. March 1, 1753

Correct answer: D. March 1, 1753
Sweden omitted the final 11 dates of February when it adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1753. February 17 was followed by March 1.

14. A fictional February 1996 caption says Deep Blue won the opening chess game against Garry Kasparov and therefore won the six-game match. Which edit fixes the record?

A. Deep Blue won the opener. Kasparov won the match 4–2.
B. Kasparov won the opener. Deep Blue won the match 4–2.
C. Deep Blue won the opener and the match 4–2.
D. Deep Blue won the opener. The match ended 3–3.

Correct answer: A. Deep Blue won the opener. Kasparov won the match 4–2.
Deep Blue won the first game in Philadelphia. Kasparov finished ahead 4–2 in the full match.

15. Mexico’s Constitution was published on February 5, 1917. What did its first transitional article say about when provisions would take effect?

A. Most provisions took effect on February 5. Only the election rules waited until May 1.
B. All provisions, including the election rules, waited until May 1.
C. The specified election provisions took effect immediately. May 1 was the general start date.
D. All provisions took effect when the Constitution was published.

Correct answer: C. The specified election provisions took effect immediately. May 1 was the general start date.
The first transitional article gave the specified federal and state election provisions immediate effect. It set May 1 as the date the Constitution would generally begin to apply.