Funny Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What shape gives a wombat's droppings their famously unusual look?
   - A. Cubes
   - B. Rings
   - C. Cones
   - D. Spheres

   Correct answer: A. Cubes
   The cubes take shape inside the wombat. Researchers found that parts of the intestine stretch by different amounts and help form the flat sides.

2. What gives flamingos the pigments that make their feathers pink?
   - A. Minerals from their nests
   - B. Sunlight on their feathers
   - C. Food they eat
   - D. A dye from their skin

   Correct answer: C. Food they eat
   Flamingos take in carotenoid pigments from their diet, including algae and small aquatic animals. The pigments color their growing feathers.

3. Which mythical creature serves as Scotland's national animal?
   - A. Griffin
   - B. Unicorn
   - C. Phoenix
   - D. Dragon

   Correct answer: B. Unicorn
   The unicorn has long appeared in Scottish heraldry, making this national animal an unusual entry among real-world wildlife.

4. Which U.S. city is home to an alley wall covered with pieces of chewed gum?
   - A. Boston
   - B. Portland
   - C. San Francisco
   - D. Seattle

   Correct answer: D. Seattle
   The Gum Wall is in Seattle's Pike Place Market. Patrons and performers from an improv theater started adding gum to the brickwork in the 1990s.

5. What stuck to a dog's fur and gave the inventor of hook-and-loop fasteners his idea?

A. Feathers
B. Burrs
C. Pine needles
D. Spider silk

Correct answer: B. Burrs
George de Mestral examined the tiny hooks on burrs that caught on his dog's fur. He adapted the idea into a fastening system.

6. What did the inventors behind Bubble Wrap originally hope to sell their bubbly plastic as?

A. Textured wallpaper
B. Waterproof gloves
C. Reusable picnic plates
D. Non-slip bath mats

Correct answer: A. Textured wallpaper
The inventors started with a wallpaper idea. The air pockets later found a purpose cushioning goods during shipping.

7. Which smaller parts grow together to make a single pineapple?

A. Seeds from separate cones
B. Leaves from separate plants
C. Shoots from separate roots
D. Fruits from separate flowers

Correct answer: D. Fruits from separate flowers
A pineapple forms when the small fruits of many neighboring flowers grow together into a single fruiting structure.

8. Gentoo penguins build raised nests from which surprising material?

A. Sheets of ice
B. Feathers
C. Small stones
D. Dry reeds

Correct answer: C. Small stones
Gentoo penguins pile up stones to make a nest that helps keep their eggs in place.

9. What sandwich did astronaut John Young unexpectedly bring aboard Gemini III in 1965?

A. Corned beef
B. Peanut butter and jelly
C. Tuna salad
D. Grilled cheese

Correct answer: A. Corned beef
Young brought a corned beef sandwich aboard. The crew put it away after loose crumbs became a concern inside the spacecraft.

10. What was missing from the original Mr. Potato Head kit that a later version included?

A. A nose with a prong
B. A pair of toy eyes
C. A little hat
D. A body to hold the pieces

Correct answer: D. A body to hold the pieces
The early toy supplied facial pieces with prongs designed to go into a real potato or other produce. A plastic body came later.

11. What did mail workers give Owney, the Railway Mail Service dog, to mark the places he visited?

A. Wooden train whistles
B. Postage stamps
C. Metal tags
D. Miniature mail sacks

Correct answer: C. Metal tags
Owney traveled with railway mail workers, who clipped tags and medals to his collar or harness. The National Postal Museum holds many of the tags.

12. What can grow on a sloth's fur and lend the animal a greenish tint?

A. Moss
B. Algae
C. Grass
D. Lichen

Correct answer: B. Algae
Some sloths carry green algae on their fur, which can help them blend into the leafy trees where they spend much of their time.

13. Some bottlenose dolphins in Shark Bay put what natural item over their snouts while searching the seabed for food?

A. A lump of coral
B. A strip of kelp
C. An empty clam shell
D. A marine sponge

Correct answer: D. A marine sponge
These dolphins use a sponge as a tool while probing the seabed. Researchers found that young dolphins can learn the behavior from their mothers.

14. Experiments showed that certain dung beetles can keep a straight course by tracking which pattern in the night sky?

A. The broad band of the Milky Way
B. The three stars in Orion's Belt
C. The outline of the Big Dipper
D. The lights of passing satellites

Correct answer: A. The broad band of the Milky Way
Researchers found that the beetles could use the Milky Way's broad streak of light as a compass on clear, moonless nights.

15. The pupils of the common cuttlefish look like which letter in bright light?

A. I
B. O
C. W
D. V

Correct answer: C. W
A cuttlefish's narrow daytime pupil forms a W shape. Researchers have studied how that shape helps its vision across varied underwater light levels.