June Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which country held its first Fête de la musique on June 21, 1982, inviting amateur and professional musicians to perform?
   - A. France
   - B. Belgium
   - C. Canada
   - D. Switzerland

   Correct answer: A. France
   France's Ministry of Culture dates the first festival to June 21, 1982. Both amateur and professional musicians took part.

2. Which annual observance did the United Nations designate for June 8, beginning in 2009?
   - A. World Water Day
   - B. World Environment Day
   - C. World Oceans Day
   - D. World Wetlands Day

   Correct answer: C. World Oceans Day
   The UN General Assembly made the designation in 2008. The UN began observing World Oceans Day on June 8 in 2009.

3. The public Inti Raymi celebration in Cusco, Peru, on June 24 honours what?
   - A. The Moon
   - B. The Sun
   - C. The rainbow
   - D. The morning star

   Correct answer: B. The Sun
   Cusco's festival organisers describe Inti Raymi as a celebration in honour of the Inca sun god.

4. Which country marks June 21 as National Indigenous Peoples Day to recognise First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples?
   - A. New Zealand
   - B. Australia
   - C. Finland
   - D. Canada

   Correct answer: D. Canada
   Canada's calendar names June 21 as a day to recognise the distinct histories, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

5. Which present-day African country declared independence from Belgium on June 30, 1960?

A. Republic of the Congo
B. Democratic Republic of the Congo
C. Rwanda
D. Burundi

Correct answer: B. Democratic Republic of the Congo
The U.S. Office of the Historian dates the independence of the former Belgian Congo, today's Democratic Republic of the Congo, to June 30, 1960.

6. Oxford and Cambridge held their first Boat Race at Henley-on-Thames on June 10, 1829. How many rowers were in each crew, excluding the cox?

A. Eight
B. Two
C. Four
D. Six

Correct answer: A. Eight
The race organisers preserve the original challenge for each university to compete in an eight-oared boat.

7. In a study by the India Meteorological Department, the normal onset date for the southwest monsoon is June 1 for which state?

A. Bihar
B. Punjab
C. Rajasthan
D. Kerala

Correct answer: D. Kerala
The study used decades of station rainfall records and identified June 1 as the typical southwest monsoon onset date for Kerala.

8. Which Pacific country gained independence on January 1, 1962, and holds its independence celebrations on June 1?

A. Tonga
B. Fiji
C. Samoa
D. Vanuatu

Correct answer: C. Samoa
New Zealand's government records January 1, 1962, as Samoa's independence date and June 1 as the date of the annual celebration.

9. What does NASA's historical account identify as the source of the Tunguska event over Siberia on June 30, 1908?

A. An asteroid exploded in the atmosphere.
B. A volcano erupted below the ocean.
C. An earthquake caused a volcanic island to rise.
D. A rock from space struck the surface and formed a large crater.

Correct answer: A. An asteroid exploded in the atmosphere.
NASA's account attributes the fireball and the flattened forest to a space rock that broke up and released its energy in the atmosphere.

10. Which of NASA's twin Mars exploration rovers launched on June 10, 2003?

A. Perseverance
B. Opportunity
C. Curiosity
D. Spirit

Correct answer: D. Spirit
NASA records Spirit's launch on June 10, 2003. Its twin Opportunity followed on July 7 that year.

11. The Olympic archives mark June 23 in both 1894 and 1948. Which caption matches what happened in those years?

A. 1894: the first modern Olympics were held. 1948: the IOC was founded in Paris.
B. 1894: the first Olympic Day was held. 1948: the IOC was founded in Paris.
C. 1894: the IOC was founded in Paris. 1948: the first Olympic Day was held.
D. 1894: the IOC was founded in Athens. 1948: the first modern Olympics were held.

Correct answer: C. 1894: the IOC was founded in Paris. 1948: the first Olympic Day was held.
The International Olympic Committee traces its founding to June 23, 1894, in Paris and the first Olympic Day to June 23, 1948.

12. Sweden's parliament links June 6 to events in 1523 and 1809. Which pair of events matches the record?

A. The Instrument of Government was adopted in 1523. Gustav Vasa was elected king in 1809.
B. Gustav Vasa was elected king in 1523. The Instrument of Government was adopted in 1809.
C. Gustav Vasa was elected king in 1523. Sweden adopted the Swedish krona in 1809.
D. Sweden adopted the Swedish krona in 1523. The Instrument of Government was adopted in 1809.

Correct answer: B. Gustav Vasa was elected king in 1523. The Instrument of Government was adopted in 1809.
The Riksdag dates both Gustav Vasa's election and the adoption of the 1809 Instrument of Government to June 6 of their respective years.

13. A British exhibit label gives June 20, 1837, and June 28, 1838, for Queen Victoria. Which explanation matches the Royal Archives?

A. She became queen and was crowned on June 28, 1838.
B. She was crowned on June 20, 1837, and became queen on June 28, 1838.
C. She became queen and was crowned on June 20, 1837.
D. She became queen on June 20, 1837, and was crowned on June 28, 1838.

Correct answer: D. She became queen on June 20, 1837, and was crowned on June 28, 1838.
Victoria became queen when William IV died in June 1837. Her coronation took place at Westminster Abbey in June 1838.

14. John Alcock and Arthur Brown made a nonstop transatlantic flight on June 14–15, 1919. Which route belongs on its museum label?

A. Newfoundland to Ireland
B. Ireland to Newfoundland
C. Nova Scotia to Iceland
D. Newfoundland to mainland France

Correct answer: A. Newfoundland to Ireland
The Science Museum records that the pair took off from Newfoundland on June 14 and landed in Ireland the following day.

15. The Hawaiian Kingdom first celebrated Kamehameha Day on June 11, 1872. Who issued the earlier proclamation, and whom did it honour?

A. Kamehameha IV issued it to honour Kamehameha V.
B. Kamehameha I issued it to honour Kamehameha V.
C. Kamehameha V issued it to honour Kamehameha I.
D. Kamehameha V issued it to honour Kamehameha IV.

Correct answer: C. Kamehameha V issued it to honour Kamehameha I.
The state's celebration commission records that Kamehameha V proclaimed the holiday in 1871 to honour his grandfather, Kamehameha I.