May Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. An international May 18 observance highlights places that care for collections and share them through exhibitions. Which places does the day celebrate?
   - A. Museums
   - B. Airports
   - C. Stock exchanges
   - D. Weather stations

   Correct answer: A. Museums

   The International Council of Museums marks International Museum Day on May 18. Institutions can schedule exhibitions and other activities around that date.

2. According to the Coca-Cola Company’s archive, what kind of business first sold its drink in Atlanta on May 8, 1886?
   - A. A hotel kitchen
   - B. A movie theater
   - C. A pharmacy
   - D. A railroad dining car

   Correct answer: C. A pharmacy

   Jacobs’ Pharmacy sold Coca-Cola as a soda fountain drink. Its first price was five cents a glass.

3. The United Nations designated May 21 to recognize the history, culture, and livelihoods associated with which beverage?
   - A. Coffee
   - B. Tea
   - C. Cocoa
   - D. Lemonade

   Correct answer: B. Tea

   May 21 is International Tea Day. The UN asked the Food and Agriculture Organization to lead the observance.

4. In which city did Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony premiere on May 7, 1824?
   - A. London
   - B. Prague
   - C. Berlin
   - D. Vienna

   Correct answer: D. Vienna

   The Ninth premiered at the Kärntnertor Theater in Vienna. The concert also included Beethoven’s overture The Consecration of the House.

5. Which document did Norway’s assembly at Eidsvoll begin signing on May 17, 1814?

A. The Treaty of Kiel
B. The Norwegian Constitution
C. The Convention of Moss
D. The resolution dissolving Norway’s union with Sweden

Correct answer: B. The Norwegian Constitution
The assembly began signing the Constitution on May 17 and completed the signing the following day.

6. Countries signed the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875. Which goal belonged to that agreement?

A. Make metric measurements more consistent internationally
B. Make coins legal tender across all signatory countries
C. Set a uniform departure time for international trains
D. Give all ships the same system of registration numbers

Correct answer: A. Make metric measurements more consistent internationally
The convention created the International Bureau of Weights and Measures to support shared standards and improvements to metric measurement.

7. The Sabah State Library describes Kaamatan celebrations on May 30 and 31. Which crop is central to the harvest tradition described in its account?

A. Potatoes
B. Wheat
C. Olives
D. Rice

Correct answer: D. Rice
The library connects Kaamatan in Sabah, Malaysia, with gratitude for the harvest and describes the role of rice in Kadazandusun traditions.

8. Argentina’s government records the formation of a governing body in Buenos Aires on May 25, 1810. Which name does it use for that body?

A. Cabildo Abierto
B. Congress of Tucumán
C. Primera Junta
D. League of the Peoples

Correct answer: C. Primera Junta
The government’s account identifies the body as the Primera Junta and names Cornelio Saavedra as its president.

9. Which title appears as both Record of the Year and Song of the Year in the Recording Academy’s results for the first Grammy Awards, held on May 4, 1959?

A. Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)
B. Tom Dooley
C. Fever
D. Catch a Falling Star

Correct answer: A. Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)
Domenico Modugno’s recording won Record of the Year. The song also won Song of the Year at the same awards.

10. Teams photographed the total solar eclipse of May 29, 1919 from Brazil and Príncipe. What did comparing those photographs with earlier night-sky images let astronomers measure?

A. A change in the Moon’s rotation period
B. A change in the number of moons orbiting Jupiter
C. A difference in the color of the same stars between the two sites
D. A shift in the apparent positions of stars near the Sun

Correct answer: D. A shift in the apparent positions of stars near the Sun
The eclipse made stars near the Sun visible. Their positions compared with the earlier images let the teams test whether the Sun’s gravity bent passing starlight.

11. A timeline gives December 29 as the original date for the International Day for Biological Diversity and May 22 as the replacement. Which milestone made May 22 the chosen date?

A. The convention was first opened for signature in Nairobi on May 22, 1992.
B. The convention entered into force in Nairobi on May 22, 1992.
C. The convention’s text was adopted in Nairobi on May 22, 1992.
D. The first annual observance was held in Nairobi on May 22, 1992.

Correct answer: C. The convention’s text was adopted in Nairobi on May 22, 1992.
The new date commemorates the adoption of the convention text in Nairobi. The older December date marked the convention’s entry into force.

12. The first U.S. Copyright Act was approved on May 31, 1790. Which item fits a category expressly named by the original statute?

A. A carved wooden statue
B. A printed navigation chart
C. A painted portrait on canvas
D. A dance performed from memory

Correct answer: B. A printed navigation chart
The 1790 act expressly named maps, charts, and books. A printed navigation chart fits that list.

13. An Australian Parliament timeline has openings on May 9 in 1901, 1927, and 1988. Which labels correctly match those years in order?

A. New Parliament House in Canberra, first federal Parliament in Melbourne, provisional Parliament House in Canberra
B. Provisional Parliament House in Canberra, first federal Parliament in Melbourne, new Parliament House in Canberra
C. First federal Parliament in Sydney, provisional Parliament House in Melbourne, new Parliament House in Canberra
D. First federal Parliament in Melbourne, provisional Parliament House in Canberra, new Parliament House in Canberra

Correct answer: D. First federal Parliament in Melbourne, provisional Parliament House in Canberra, new Parliament House in Canberra

The federal Parliament first opened in Melbourne in 1901. Canberra’s provisional building opened in 1927 and its replacement opened in 1988.

14. A fictional exhibit pairs a founding card dated May 7, 1946 for Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo K.K. with a record for Sony Corporation. Which label explains how the two names are related?

A. Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo K.K. was the founding name. It became Sony Corporation in 1958.
B. Sony Corporation was the founding name. It became Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo K.K. in 1958.
C. The two names belonged to separate companies that merged in 1958.
D. Both names were used at the founding. The company dropped Sony in 1958.

Correct answer: A. Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo K.K. was the founding name. It became Sony Corporation in 1958.

The Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation was established as Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo K.K. The archive records its name change to Sony Corporation in 1958.

15. A display about the Giro d’Italia that began on May 13, 1909 says overall standings used the sum of riders’ elapsed times. What does the race archive say the organizers actually totaled?

A. Votes from the officials at the end of each stage
B. Minutes that each rider spent leading the race
C. Points assigned from finishing places across the stages
D. A bonus for each stage win, with no score for other places

Correct answer: C. Points assigned from finishing places across the stages

The first Giro used a points classification. Riders earned scores based on stage finishing positions, and the organizers combined those scores across the eight stages.