November Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Japan’s official calendar lists Bunka no Hi on November 3. What is the holiday called in English?
   - A. Culture Day
   - B. Sports Day
   - C. Greenery Day
   - D. Marine Day

   Correct answer: A. Culture Day
   Japan celebrates Culture Day on November 3. The Cabinet Office lists the promotion of culture as part of the holiday’s purpose.

2. St Andrew’s Day falls on November 30. Which country celebrates St Andrew as its patron saint?
   - A. Wales
   - B. Ireland
   - C. Scotland
   - D. Norway

   Correct answer: C. Scotland
   St Andrew is Scotland’s patron saint. His feast day falls on the last day of November.

3. Disney dates the New York release of Steamboat Willie to November 18, 1928. Which character appears as a deckhand in the cartoon?
   - A. Donald Duck
   - B. Mickey Mouse
   - C. Goofy
   - D. Pluto

   Correct answer: B. Mickey Mouse
   Mickey Mouse plays a deckhand working aboard a riverboat. Disney’s archive dates the New York premiere to November 18, 1928.

4. UNICEF marks World Children’s Day on which November date?
   - A. November 27
   - B. November 12
   - C. November 16
   - D. November 20

   Correct answer: D. November 20
   UNICEF marks the day on November 20, the date the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

5. Which Charles Darwin book was first published on November 24, 1859?

A. The Descent of Man
B. On the Origin of Species
C. The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals
D. The Voyage of the Beagle

Correct answer: B. On the Origin of Species
The Darwin Correspondence Project dates the first publication of On the Origin of Species to November 24, 1859.

6. Egypt inaugurated the Suez Canal on November 17, 1869. Which two seas does it connect?

A. The Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea
B. The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea
C. The Red Sea and the Arabian Sea
D. The Black Sea and the Caspian Sea

Correct answer: A. The Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea
The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through Egypt. Its inauguration took place in November 1869.

7. On November 14, 1971, in Coordinated Universal Time, Mariner 9 became the first spacecraft to orbit another planet. Which planet was it?

A. Mercury
B. Jupiter
C. Venus
D. Mars

Correct answer: D. Mars
NASA’s Mariner 9 entered orbit around Mars. It then returned photographs from orbit.

8. On November 21, 1783, two people flew over Paris in a craft that rose from the ground without a tether. What kind of craft was it?

A. An unpowered glider
B. A hydrogen balloon
C. A hot-air balloon
D. A steam-powered airship

Correct answer: C. A hot-air balloon
Pilâtre de Rozier and the Marquis d’Arlandes flew untethered in a Montgolfier hot-air balloon.

9. Which Agatha Christie play opened in London’s West End on November 25, 1952?

A. The Mousetrap
B. Witness for the Prosecution
C. And Then There Were None
D. Murder on the Nile

Correct answer: A. The Mousetrap
The Christie archive dates the London opening of The Mousetrap to November 25, 1952.

10. What did Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discover on November 8, 1895, while working in Würzburg, Germany?

A. Infrared radiation
B. Radio waves
C. Ultraviolet radiation
D. X-rays

Correct answer: D. X-rays
The University of Würzburg dates Röntgen’s discovery of X-rays to November 8, 1895. He later received the first Nobel Prize in Physics.

11. Barbados became independent on November 30, 1966, and became a republic on November 30, 2021. How many years separated those milestones?

A. 50 years
B. 45 years
C. 55 years
D. 65 years

Correct answer: C. 55 years
The month and day match, so subtract the years. 2021 minus 1966 equals 55.

12. A timeline pairs two milestones in New Zealand women’s voting history with September 19 and November 28, 1893. Which caption gets the order right?

A. Women voted in the general election in September. The voting law changed in November.
B. The voting law changed in September. Women voted in the general election in November.
C. The voting law changed and women voted in the general election in September.
D. The voting law changed and women voted in the general election in November.

Correct answer: B. The voting law changed in September. Women voted in the general election in November.
The new Electoral Act became law on September 19. More than 90,000 New Zealand women went to the polls on November 28.

13. A radio message sent from Arecibo in November 1974 was aimed at a star cluster about 25,000 light-years away. At light speed, roughly how long would the one-way trip take?

A. 250,000 years
B. 2,500 years
C. 50,000 years
D. 25,000 years

Correct answer: D. 25,000 years
Light travels one light-year in one year. Crossing about 25,000 light-years therefore takes about 25,000 years at light speed.

14. The Leonids peak each November. If their source comet completes a 33-year orbit this year, what can still happen next November?

A. Earth can cross the comet’s old debris and another Leonid shower can occur.
B. The source comet can complete another full orbit for the next shower.
C. The shower can occur only if the comet leaves all-new debris that year.
D. The source comet and the shower can both return only in 33 years.

Correct answer: A. Earth can cross the comet’s old debris and another Leonid shower can occur.
Earth passes through the debris stream each year. The source comet, Tempel–Tuttle, takes roughly 33 years to complete its own orbit around the Sun.

15. A museum label treats UNESCO’s November 2010 listing for traditional Mexican cuisine as an award for a single dish. Which revision matches the record?

A. The listing recognizes one method of processing corn in Michoacán.
B. The listing recognizes a written collection of regional Mexican recipes.
C. The listing recognizes a community food tradition, using Michoacán as an example.
D. The listing recognizes a style of service in Mexican restaurants.

Correct answer: C. The listing recognizes a community food tradition, using Michoacán as an example.
The listing recognizes the community practices involved in growing, preparing, and sharing food. It uses Michoacán to illustrate the tradition.