October Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which observance does UNESCO mark on October 5 in honour of educators around the world?

A. World Teachers' Day
B. International Literacy Day
C. World Science Day
D. International Youth Day

Correct answer: A. World Teachers' Day
UNESCO observes World Teachers' Day on October 5, the anniversary of a 1966 international recommendation on the status of teachers.

2. South Korea celebrates Hangeul Day on October 9. What does the day commemorate?

A. The first performance of the national anthem
B. The establishment of the National Museum of Korea
C. The proclamation of the Korean alphabet
D. The opening of the country's first railway

Correct answer: C. The proclamation of the Korean alphabet
South Korea's official guide identifies October 9 as the commemoration of the proclamation of Hangeul, the Korean alphabet.

3. Which West African federation became independent on October 1, 1960?

A. Ghana
B. Nigeria
C. Senegal
D. Sierra Leone

Correct answer: B. Nigeria
The diplomatic record dates the independence of the Federation of Nigeria to October 1, 1960.

4. The Christ the Redeemer monument was inaugurated on October 12, 1931. Which Brazilian city does it overlook?

A. Salvador
B. São Paulo
C. Brasília
D. Rio de Janeiro

Correct answer: D. Rio de Janeiro
Brazil's Ministry of Tourism dates the opening to October 12, 1931, and describes the monument as a landmark visible across Rio de Janeiro.

5. The University of Pretoria describes the city's jacaranda bloom in October. What colour usually brightens its streets?

A. Orange
B. Purple
C. Yellow
D. Pink

Correct answer: B. Purple
The university describes the purple flowers of Pretoria's jacarandas in spring. A few locally planted varieties have white blossoms.

6. In which Canadian city did delegates establish the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on October 16, 1945?

A. Quebec City
B. Ottawa
C. Montréal
D. Toronto

Correct answer: A. Quebec City
The FAO's record puts its founding on October 16, 1945, at the Château Frontenac in Quebec City.

7. Fiji Day recalls the islands' independence on October 10, 1970. Fiji was formerly under which country's colonial rule?

A. New Zealand
B. France
C. Australia
D. The United Kingdom

Correct answer: D. The United Kingdom
Fiji's foreign affairs ministry identifies October 10 as the anniversary of the country's independence from British colonial rule in 1970.

8. Who designed the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum building that opened in New York City on October 21, 1959?

A. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
B. Eero Saarinen
C. Frank Lloyd Wright
D. Philip Johnson

Correct answer: C. Frank Lloyd Wright
The museum's anniversary release credits Frank Lloyd Wright and records the building's opening on October 21, 1959.

9. On October 7, 1959, Luna 3 took the first photograph of which part of the Moon?

A. The far side
B. The Earth-facing side
C. The near-side Sea of Tranquillity
D. The near-side Ocean of Storms

Correct answer: A. The far side
NASA's archive dates Luna 3's first image of the lunar far side to October 7, 1959. The spacecraft looked back after passing the Moon.

10. In a Bell X-1 test flight in California on October 14, 1947, Chuck Yeager passed Mach 1. What speed threshold did that mark?

A. Earth's escape velocity
B. The speed needed to orbit Earth
C. The speed of light
D. The speed of sound

Correct answer: D. The speed of sound
NASA records the Bell X-1 flight as the first piloted flight faster than Mach 1, the speed of sound.

11. A Ford chronology marks October 1, 1908, and a date in 1927 for the Model T. Which caption correctly distinguishes the two milestones?

A. 1908: the Model T first went on a moving chassis assembly line. 1927: it became available to the public.
B. 1908: production ended. 1927: the Model T became available to the public.
C. 1908: the Model T became available to the public. 1927: its production ended.
D. 1908: the Model T became available to the public. 1927: the first Ford truck appeared.

Correct answer: C. 1908: the Model T became available to the public. 1927: its production ended.
The Henry Ford's chronology puts public availability on October 1, 1908, and the end of Model T production in 1927.

12. Which caption matches the names used at the BBC's formation on October 18, 1922, and when its first Royal Charter took effect in January 1927?

A. 1922: British Broadcasting Corporation. 1927: British Broadcasting Company.
B. 1922: British Broadcasting Company. 1927: British Broadcasting Corporation.
C. 1922: British Broadcasting Corporation. 1927: British Broadcasting Corporation.
D. 1922: British Broadcasting Company. 1927: British Broadcasting Company.

Correct answer: B. 1922: British Broadcasting Company. 1927: British Broadcasting Corporation.
The BBC's timeline records the formation of the British Broadcasting Company in October 1922 and the change to British Broadcasting Corporation in January 1927.

13. NASA's OSIRIS-REx archive gives October 20, 2020, and September 24, 2023. Which record correctly distinguishes collecting the sample from returning it?

A. The sample was collected from Bennu and reached Utah on the same day in 2020.
B. The sample reached Utah in 2020 and was then collected from Bennu in 2023.
C. The sample was collected from the Moon in 2020 and reached Utah in 2023.
D. The sample was collected from Bennu in 2020 and reached Earth in Utah in 2023.

Correct answer: D. The sample was collected from Bennu in 2020 and reached Earth in Utah in 2023.
OSIRIS-REx collected material from asteroid Bennu on October 20, 2020. The return capsule landed in Utah on September 24, 2023.

14. Eliud Kipchoge ran 1:59:40.2 for the marathon distance in Vienna on October 12, 2019. How did World Athletics classify that performance?

A. He broke the two-hour barrier during a special event, and the time was ineligible for world-record ratification.
B. His result was ratified as the official men's marathon world record.
C. The reported time was a split from a half-marathon record attempt.
D. The time was recorded for the marathon at the Olympic Games.

Correct answer: A. He broke the two-hour barrier during a special event, and the time was ineligible for world-record ratification.
World Athletics reported the sub-two-hour performance in Vienna's INEOS 1:59 Challenge and said the time would not be ratified as a marathon world record.

15. Japan's transport ministry describes the Tōkaidō Shinkansen service that began on October 1, 1964. Which route and journey time match the opening record?

A. Tokyo to Shin-Yokohama in about four hours
B. Tokyo to Shin-Osaka in about eight hours
C. Tokyo to Shin-Osaka in about four hours
D. Osaka to Hiroshima in about two hours

Correct answer: C. Tokyo to Shin-Osaka in about four hours
Japan's transport ministry records that the opening service linked Tokyo and Shin-Osaka and took about four hours.