September Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. A UNESCO calendar marks September 8 for an observance that promotes learning to read and write. What is it called?

A. International Literacy Day
B. World Book and Copyright Day
C. World Teachers’ Day
D. International Day of Education

Correct answer: A. International Literacy Day
UNESCO has marked International Literacy Day on September 8 since 1967.

2. The Seoul Summer Olympics opened on September 17, 1988. What animal was Hodori, the mascot of those Games?

A. A crane
B. A hare
C. A tiger
D. A panda

Correct answer: C. A tiger
The International Olympic Committee’s record identifies Hodori as a tiger.

3. A Smithsonian record describes Martha as the last known living bird of her species when she died on September 1, 1914. What species was she?

A. American robin
B. Passenger pigeon
C. California condor
D. Whooping crane

Correct answer: B. Passenger pigeon
Martha was a passenger pigeon at the Cincinnati Zoo. The Smithsonian preserves a specimen record for her.

4. Which holiday appears beside September 24 in the schedule of South Africa’s 1994 Public Holidays Act?

A. Day of Reconciliation
B. Freedom Day
C. Youth Day
D. Heritage Day

Correct answer: D. Heritage Day
The act lists Heritage Day on September 24. It lists the other named public holidays on separate dates.

5. Michelangelo’s David was publicly unveiled on September 8, 1504. In which city did that happen?

A. Venice
B. Florence
C. Rome
D. Milan

Correct answer: B. Florence
The sculpture was displayed by Florence’s Palazzo Vecchio. Contemporary writers took note of its September unveiling.

6. Which locomotive drew the opening-day train from Shildon toward Stockton on the Stockton and Darlington Railway on September 27, 1825?

A. Locomotion No. 1
B. Rocket
C. Flying Scotsman
D. Mallard

Correct answer: A. Locomotion No. 1
Locomotion No. 1 led the train to Stockton. The National Railway Museum describes the journey as a milestone in public passenger travel by steam.

7. In a Carnegie Mellon message dated September 19, 1982, Scott Fahlman suggested typing a sideways smile. What was he trying to signal?

A. That a message contained a university announcement
B. That a message needed a same-day reply
C. That a message had been copied from a book
D. That a message was meant as a joke

Correct answer: D. That a message was meant as a joke
Readers sometimes took jokes literally on the message board. Fahlman proposed the symbol so readers could recognize a joking tone.

8. On September 7, 1927, Philo Farnsworth sent an electronic television image to a receiver in his laboratory. What simple image did he send in that test?

A. A clock face
B. A dollar sign
C. A straight line
D. A checkerboard

Correct answer: C. A straight line
Farnsworth’s first successful test transmitted a straight line. He used a dollar sign in a later demonstration for investors.

9. The September 1960 Baghdad conference established OPEC. Which South American country was among the five founding members?

A. Venezuela
B. Colombia
C. Peru
D. Ecuador

Correct answer: A. Venezuela
Venezuela joined Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia as a founding member at the Baghdad conference.

10. The international convention establishing CERN took effect on September 29, 1954. What allowed it to take effect on that date?

A. The United Nations General Assembly elected the director.
B. The first laboratory buildings opened to the public.
C. An accelerator ran for the first time.
D. Enough participating countries ratified the convention.

Correct answer: D. Enough participating countries ratified the convention.
CERN’s anniversary record says the organization was created once the convention had received enough ratifications from member states.

11. A New Zealand timeline lists September 19, 1893 and 1919 for two milestones in women’s political rights. Which labels correctly match the dates?

A. 1893 granted both rights. 1919 marked the election of the first woman to Parliament.
B. 1893 gave women the right to stand for Parliament. 1919 gave them the right to vote in parliamentary elections.
C. 1893 gave women the right to vote in parliamentary elections. 1919 gave them the right to stand for Parliament.
D. 1893 marked the first woman elected to Parliament. 1919 granted both voting and candidacy rights.

Correct answer: C. 1893 gave women the right to vote in parliamentary elections. 1919 gave them the right to stand for Parliament.
The 1893 law recognized women’s right to vote in parliamentary elections. The right to stand for Parliament followed in 1919.

12. A fictional label calls Pedro Américo’s Independência ou Morte! an eyewitness painting made on September 7, 1822. Museu do Ipiranga dates the work to 1888. Which correction fits the museum’s record?

A. It was painted in 1822 and renamed in 1888.
B. It is a later depiction of the 1822 event, completed in 1888.
C. It was painted in 1888 to show an event that also happened in 1888.
D. It was painted before 1822 and meant to predict the event.

Correct answer: B. It is a later depiction of the 1822 event, completed in 1888.
The work depicts the 1822 proclamation of Brazil’s independence. Américo completed the painting decades later.

13. A museum label lists the territories that formed Malaysia on September 16, 1963. Which founding participant belongs on that list and also on a separate 1965 record of departure from the federation?

A. The Federation of Malaya
B. Sarawak
C. North Borneo, now Sabah
D. Singapore

Correct answer: D. Singapore
Singapore was one of the participants in the 1963 formation of Malaysia. It left the federation in 1965.

14. A timeline of the first circumnavigation marks September 20, 1519 and September 1522 at Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Which caption correctly describes the ship Victoria at those milestones?

A. It sailed with four other ships in 1519 and returned under Juan Sebastián de Elcano in 1522.
B. It sailed alone in 1519 and returned under Ferdinand Magellan in 1522.
C. It stayed in Spain in 1519 and led five departing ships in 1522.
D. It left Sanlúcar in 1519. All five ships returned together under Elcano in 1522.

Correct answer: A. It sailed with four other ships in 1519 and returned under Juan Sebastián de Elcano in 1522.
The Victoria was one of five ships that departed Sanlúcar in September 1519. It was the only ship of that fleet to complete the circumnavigation, returning under Elcano in September 1522.

15. Two television listings show the original Star Trek debuting on September 6 and September 8, 1966. Which caption reconciles those dates?

A. The first date marks filming in Canada. The second date marks filming in the U.S.

B. NBC aired the U.S. premiere on September 6. CTV aired the Canadian premiere on September 8.

C. CTV aired the Canadian premiere on September 6. NBC aired the U.S. premiere on September 8.

D. Both dates record U.S. broadcasts. The Canadian premiere took place in October.

Correct answer: C. CTV aired the Canadian premiere on September 6. NBC aired the U.S. premiere on September 8.

The original series first aired in Canada on CTV. NBC broadcast the U.S. premiere two days later on September 8.