

A two-round Christmas quiz

24 original questions. Twelve per round. One point per correct answer, maximum 24.

- Choose one non-playing host and 2-12 willing players, individually or in pairs. Each individual or pair is one entry with the same 24-point maximum.
- Print both PLAYER pages for each entry, single-sided. Print this four-page HOST file once; never put answers on the back of a player page.
- Explain the rules before revealing questions. Read each round aloud if useful. Guests can ask for reading help, watch or pass without explaining why.
- Suggested allowance: eight minutes per round, followed by a shared reveal. This is a planning suggestion, not a measured playtest. Choose an untimed version before starting if it suits your table.
- No phones, search or outside answer help during a scored round. Conversation within a pair is allowed. One written response per question; if several are left, mark the first only.
- Award one point for the printed answer or listed alternative. Clear spelling variants count when the identity is unambiguous. No partial points. Blank and incorrect answers score zero.
- Q12 needs both Victoria and Albert. Q22 needs Ariane 5, including the number. Accept Clara for Q8 because this question specifies the Royal Ballet's version.
- Stop writing before the reveal. Do not rewrite answers after hearing the key. Add the two scores; tied highest totals share the win. No extra tiebreaker or speed bonus.
- For a conversational version, agree to remove scoring and timing before play. If guests already read the online answers, use this version rather than treating it as a fresh competition.

Print settings: use the file matching A4 or US Letter. Actual Size / 100%, single-sided. Check one page for readable text and complete lines before making copies. Handwriting sheets, not fillable forms.

Source review: questions are independently worded from institution publications. The numbering, answer references, PDF text and page dimensions were checked digitally. No physical printer test or timed game trial has been performed.

Round 1: answer key

Stories and traditions. Source references S1-S12 are linked on page 4.

1. Charles Dickens [S1]

Also accept: Dickens.

2. 1843 [S1]

3. Montgomery Ward [S2]

Also accept: Montgomery Ward & Co.; Ward's.

4. Robert Lewis May [S2]

Also accept: Robert May; Robert L. May; May.

5. Henry Cole [S3]

Also accept: Sir Henry Cole; Cole.

6. Horsley [S3]

Also accept: John Callcott Horsley; John Horsley; J. C. Horsley.

7. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky [S4]

Also accept: Tchaikovsky; Pyotr Tchaikovsky; Peter Tchaikovsky; Tschaikowsky.

8. Clara [S4]

9. Tom Smith [S5]

Also accept: Thomas Smith; Smith.

10. Bonbons [S5]

Also accept: Bon bons; Bon-bons; Bonbon.

11. Yew [S6]

Also accept: Yew tree.

12. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert [S6]

Also accept: Victoria and Albert; Albert and Victoria.

Both names are required for the single point.

Round score: _____ / 12

Round 2: answer key

Festive plants and winter surprises. Source references S1-S12 are linked on page 4.

13. Calvin Coolidge [S7]

Also accept: Coolidge.

14. Vermont [S7]

Also accept: VT.

15. Modified leaves called bracts [S8]

Also accept: Bracts; Modified leaves; Leaves.

16. Yellow [S8]

17. An underground stem [S9]

Also accept: Underground stem; Stem.

18. Turmeric [S9]

19. Six [S10]

Also accept: 6.

The question is about a branched crystal, not every visible clump of snow.

20. Water vapour [S10]

Also accept: Water vapor; Vapour; Vapor.

21. James Webb Space Telescope [S11]

Also accept: James Webb; Webb; JWST.

22. Ariane 5 [S11]

Also accept: Ariane V.

The rocket's number is required; Ariane alone is too broad.

23. Northern Hemisphere [S12]

Also accept: Northern; North.

24. Summer [S12]

Also accept: Astronomical summer.

Round score: _____ / 12

Where the answers come from

Institution sources read on 9 October 2026. Links are clickable in this PDF.

S1. Library of Congress: A Tale of Two Publishings (Q1, 2)

<https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2015/12/highlighting-the-holidays-a-tale-of-two-publishings/>

S2. Chicago History Museum: The Chicago Origins of Rudolph (Q3, 4)

<https://www.chicagohistory.org/the-chicago-origins-of-rudolph-the-red-nosed-reindeer/>

S3. V&A: The first Christmas card (Q5, 6)

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-first-christmas-card/>

S4. Royal Ballet and Opera: The Nutcracker (Q7, 8)

<https://www.rbo.org.uk/ballet-essentials-the-nutcracker>

S5. V&A: Victorian Christmas traditions (Q9, 10)

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/victorian-christmas-traditions>

S6. Royal Collection Trust: A Royal Christmas (Q11, 12)

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/stories/a-royal-christmas>

S7. National Park Service: 1923 National Christmas Tree (Q13, 14)

<https://www.nps.gov/whho/learn/historyculture/1923-national-christmas-tree.htm>

S8. Royal Horticultural Society: Poinsettias (Q15, 16)

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/euphorbia/poinsettia>

S9. Kew Science: Zingiber officinale species profile (Q17, 18)

<https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:798372-1/general-information>

S10. NOAA: How do snowflakes form? (Q19, 20)

<https://www.noaa.gov/stories/how-do-snowflakes-form-science-behind-snow>

S11. NASA Science: Webb launch (Q21, 22)

<https://science.nasa.gov/mission/webb/launch/>

S12. NASA: December Solstice Brings Winter, Summer Seasons (Q23, 24)

<https://www.nasa.gov/blogs/watch-the-skies/2021/12/20/december-solstice-brings-winter-summer-seasons/>