

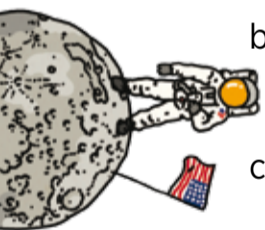
# Fancy a fun way to find out about the history of the world? Reckon you're a whizz at knowing What on Earth Happened?



Then why not try this amazing 100-question quiz to test out your knowledge of planet, life and people from the beginning of time to the present day? All the answers can be found somewhere on the timeline overleaf!

## SECTION 1: SPACE

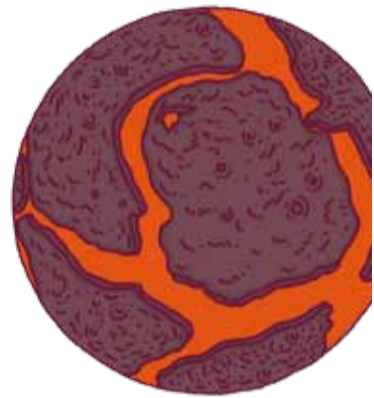
- Our universe is thought to have been born about how long ago?**
  - 14,000 years
  - 14 million years
  - 14 billion years
  - 140 billion years
- Which of the following elements is NOT forged within the nuclear cores of stars?**
  - Oxygen
  - Hydrogen
  - Helium
  - Uranium
- Where were precious metals such as gold originally formed?**
  - In the Sun
  - In supernova explosions
  - In the Big Bang
  - By a giant bombardment of comets early in the Earth's history
- The moon is...**
  - A giant meteorite captured by the Earth's gravitational field
  - The leftovers of an ancient cataclysmic collision between the Earth and another planet
  - An enormous fragment of rock that broke away early on in the Earth's formation
- What extra-terrestrial event is depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry?**
  - The arrival of Halley's comet
  - A supernova explosion
  - Giant solar flares
  - A lunar eclipse
- Which European scientist was the first to claim that the Earth orbits the Sun?**
  - Galileo Galilei
  - Nicolaus Copernicus
  - Isaac Newton
  - René Descartes
- Who said if God did not exist it would be necessary to invent him?**
  - Albert Einstein
  - Voltaire
  - René Descartes
  - Isaac Newton



- Who first discovered the planet Uranus?**
  - William Herschel
  - Albert Einstein
  - Galileo Galilei
  - Patrick Moore
- Who proposed that the universe began with an almighty Big Bang?**
  - Edwin Hubble
  - Albert Einstein
  - Isaac Newton
  - Margaret Thatcher
- What was the mathematical formula devised by Albert Einstein to calculate the amount of energy inside an atom?**
  - $E=NC^3$
  - $E=MC^3$
  - $E=CM^2$
  - $E=MC^2$

## SECTION 2: EARTH

- Roughly how old is the Earth?**
  - 45 million years
  - 450 million years
  - 4.5 billion years
  - 45 billion years
- The Earth's inner core is made mostly of...**
  - Iron
  - Steel
  - Silicon
  - Water
- What does the Earth's magnetic shield protect life against?**
  - Incoming comets
  - Solar radiation
  - Dark matter
  - Cosmic dust
- Roughly when did life on Earth begin?**
  - 10 million years ago
  - 10 thousand years ago
  - 300 million years ago
  - 3 billion years ago
- What name is given to the severe global ice age that is thought to have come to an end roughly 640 million years ago?**
  - Iceblock Earth
  - Deep Freeze Earth
  - Igloo Earth
  - Snowball Earth





16. Roughly when did the Earth look like this?

- a) 500 million years ago
- b) 250 million years ago
- c) 120 million years ago
- d) 50 million years ago



17. What was the name of the global super-ocean that surrounded the supercontinent Pangaea?

- a) Pangyre
- b) Panthalassa
- c) Panocean
- d) Pandora

18. Which geological era followed the Permian?

- a) Triassic
- b) Jurassic
- c) Carboniferous
- d) Cretaceous

19. Which pole was most recently covered with ice?

- a) North
- b) South

### SECTION 3: SKY

20. What caused the early Earth's atmosphere to turn from blood red to sky blue?

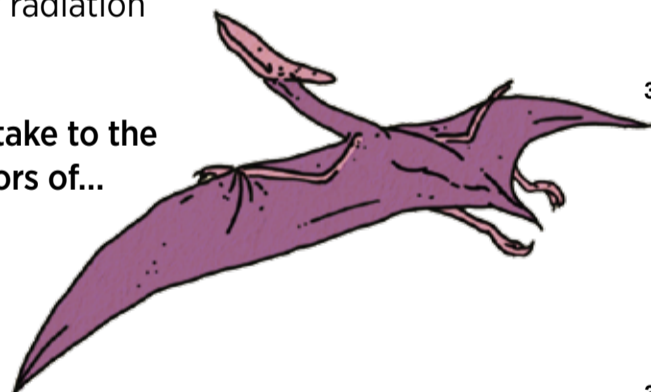
- a) Rising seas
- b) Increasing levels of carbon dioxide
- c) Higher levels of oxygen
- d) A reduction in the number of erupting volcanoes

21. The ozone layer protects life on land against...

- a) Toxic carbon monoxide
- b) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- c) Ultraviolet solar radiation
- d) Neutrinos

22. The first creatures to take to the skies were the ancestors of...

- a) Dragonflies
- b) Birds
- c) Pterodactyls
- d) Bumblebees



23. Archaeopteryx is the oldest known fossil of which group of flying creatures?

- a) Birds
- b) Pterodactyls
- c) Bats
- d) Bees

24. In which city was the 1980 protocol signed to limit the emission of CFCs into the Earth's atmosphere?

- a) Kyoto
- b) Montreal
- c) Copenhagen
- d) Rio

25. Who was the first person to successfully transmit radio waves through the air across the Atlantic?

- a) Alexander Graham Bell
- b) The Wright Brothers
- c) Marchese Guglielmo Marconi
- d) Thomas Edison



### SECTION 4: SEA

26. Most of the Earth's water is originally thought to have come from...

- a) Volcanoes
- b) Cracks under the Earth's crust
- c) The Moon
- d) A bombardment of comets

27. What are the first creatures thought to have been able to see clearly underwater?

- a) Ammonites
- b) Troglodytes
- c) Trilobites
- d) Jellyfish



28. Which of the following sea creatures did NOT have a land-based ancestor?

- a) Whale
- b) Shark
- c) Ichthyosaur
- d) Plesiosaur

29. By approximately how many metres have sea levels risen since the end of the last ice age c.12,000 years ago?

- a) 10
- b) 20
- c) 120
- d) 500

30. What is the name of ships first built by Phoenician sea-farers?

- a) Triremes
- b) Caravels
- c) Longboats
- d) Outriggers

31. From which country did Christopher Columbus set sail when he accidentally discovered the Americas?

- a) Spain
- b) Italy
- c) England
- d) France

32. What did British explorer John Cabot discover off the coast of North America in the early sixteenth century?

- a) Spanish treasure
- b) Fishing grounds
- c) A Viking longship
- d) Moby Dick

### SECTION 5: LAND

33. Which of these animal families evolved first?

- a) Birds
- b) Mammals
- c) Tetrapods
- d) Reptiles

34. Roughly when did the first flowering plants appear on land?

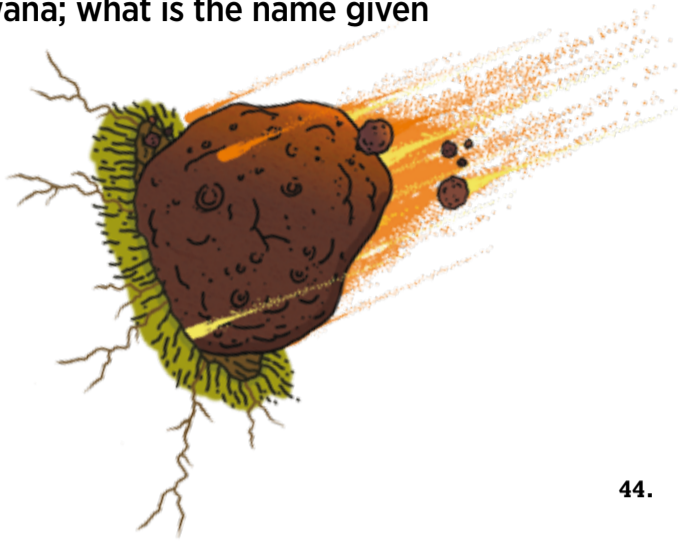
- a) 500 million years ago
- b) 140 million years ago
- c) 50 million years ago
- d) 10,000 years ago





35. About 130 million years ago the Earth's landmasses consisted of just two giant continents. The southern one is known as Gondwana; what is the name given to the northern one?

- a) Gondasia
- b) Laurentia
- c) Laurasia
- d) Americana



36. Where on Earth did the giant meteorite land that is thought to have killed off the terrestrial dinosaurs?

- a) English Channel
- b) Outer Mongolia
- c) Gulf of Mexico
- d) Red Sea

37. To which mammal family does this rare egg-laying creature belong?

- a) Placentals
- b) Monotremes
- c) Marsupials



38. The ancestors of today's camels evolved on which continent?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) South America
- d) North America

39. What was the name of Marco Polo's famous book about his experiences of travelling to China?

- a) *Il Milione*
- b) *Al Andalus*
- c) *El Greco*
- d) *Da Capo*

40. Which metal underpinned the currencies of Europe and China from c.1550–1850?

- a) Gold
- b) Silver
- c) Copper
- d) Bronze

### SECTION 6: HUMANITY

41. What name is given to the episode that resulted in the mass extinction of large animals in the Americas shortly after the arrival of humans c.14,000 years ago?

- a) Pleistocene Overkill
- b) Great Dying
- c) Permian Mass Extinction
- d) KT Extinction event

42. What is so remarkable about the now extinct species of ape called *Australopithecus*?

- a) Exceptionally large head size
- b) Use of opposable thumbs
- c) The ability to walk on two feet
- d) Hairlessness

43. Which of the following human species evolved first?

- a) *Homo erectus*
- b) *Homo sapiens*
- c) *Homo habilis*
- d) *Homo neanderthalensis*



44. Roughly when did humans first reach the Americas?

- a) 5,000 years ago
- b) 13,000 years ago
- c) 22,000 years ago
- d) 40,000 years ago

45. Which famous viral disease plagued human history for thousands of years until it was eradicated in 1980?

- a) Cholera
- b) Smallpox
- c) Tuberculosis
- d) Spanish Flu

46. Roughly how many people worldwide are thought to have died of the Black Death?

- a) 100,000
- b) 1 million
- c) 100 million
- d) 1 billion

47. Which British scholar predicted the demise of humanity owing to over-population?

- a) Thomas Malthus
- b) Charles Darwin
- c) Adam Smith
- d) Isaac Newton

48. Approximately how many extra people are currently being added to the total human population on average every day?

- a) 1,000
- b) 10,000
- c) 200,000
- d) None

### SECTION 7: ASIA

49. Which crop was cultivated by people living in the Yellow River valley?

- a) Millet
- b) Wheat
- c) Oats
- d) Rice



50. The Yellow Emperor's wife Leizu is famous in Chinese mythology for discovering...

- a) Tea
- b) Silk
- c) Chess
- d) The abacus

51. **Turtle shells were used in ancient China for...**  
 a) Divining the will of the gods  
 b) Milling into powder to make herbal medicine  
 c) Bowls for drinking noodle soup  
 d) Protecting the heads of peasants in paddy fields against sunburn

52. **Which of the following groups of people were not traditionally part of the ancient Hindu caste system?**  
 a) Priests  
 b) Merchants  
 c) Untouchables  
 d) Farmers

53. **Shinto is an ancient culture that emerged where?**  
 a) China  
 b) Cambodia  
 c) Korea  
 d) Japan

54. **Who is supposed to have been the first to make gunpowder?**  
 a) Spanish conquistadors  
 b) Guy Fawkes  
 c) Joan of Arc  
 d) Buddhist monks from China



55. **The Yuan Dynasty of China was founded by...**  
 a) Genghis Khan  
 b) Kublai Khan  
 c) Qin Shi Huangdi  
 d) Marco Polo

56. **The Black Death is a disease that originated in...**  
 a) Japan  
 b) China  
 c) Turkey  
 d) Korea

57. **Which European nation introduced guns to Japan?**  
 a) Britain  
 b) France  
 c) Holland  
 d) Portugal

58. **Which Mughal emperor built the Taj Mahal?**  
 a) Shah Jahan  
 b) Babur  
 c) Akbar the Great  
 d) Aurangzeb



### SECTION 8: THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

59. **Which Babylonian is credited with making the first comprehensive written legal code of 282 laws chiselled on to a stone pillar?**  
 a) Cyrus the Great  
 b) Hammurabi  
 c) Nebuchadnezzar  
 d) Darius the Great

60. **Which one of the following Jewish kings built the first temple of Jerusalem?**  
 a) David  
 b) Solomon  
 c) Elijah  
 d) Isaiah

61. **Which people invented the written alphabet?**  
 a) Egyptians  
 b) Greeks  
 c) Phoenicians  
 d) Assyrians

62. **Which pharaoh decreed there is only ONE god?**  
 a) Tutankhamun  
 b) Akhenaten  
 c) Ramses I  
 d) Ramses II

63. **Abraham is said to have had two sons. One was called Isaac; who was the other?**  
 a) Abdullah  
 b) Ishmael  
 c) Daniel  
 d) Zac

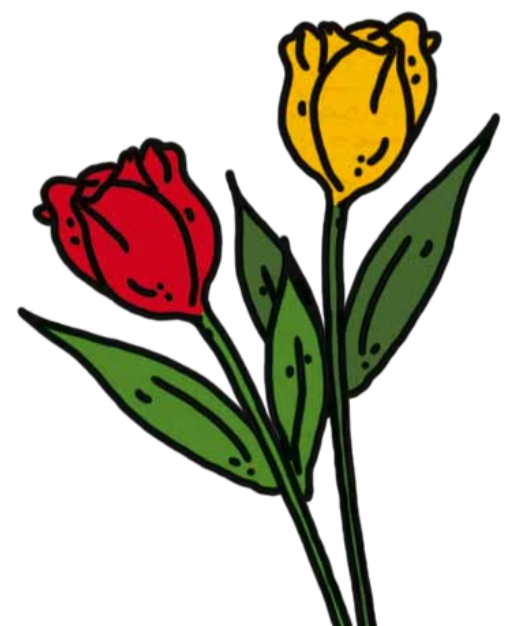
64. **How is Cleopatra, the last pharaoh of Egypt, supposed to have died?**  
 a) Shot by a cross-bow sniper  
 b) Bitten by a viper  
 c) Trampled by a camel  
 d) Poisoned by a dart

65. **Which of the following religious leaders lived first?**  
 a) Jesus Christ  
 b) Buddha  
 c) Mohammed  
 d) Gandhi

66. **What is the name of the cube-shaped shrine that is sacred to Islam?**  
 a) Medina  
 b) Mecca  
 c) Dome of the Rock  
 d) Kaaba

67. **During which crusade did Christian forces sack the Byzantine city of Constantinople?**  
 a) First  
 b) Second  
 c) Third  
 d) Fourth

68. **Tulips became a symbol of dignity in which Islamic region?**  
 a) Turkey  
 b) Persia  
 c) The Maghreb  
 d) Arabia





## SECTION 9: EUROPE

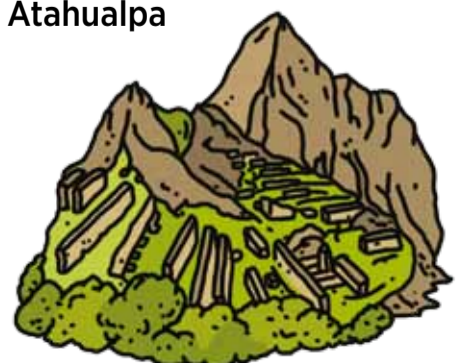
69. *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* are epic accounts of ancient history written by...
- Virgil
  - Pliny
  - Homer
  - Herodotus
70. About when were the first coins used?
- 500,000 years ago
  - 10,000 years ago
  - 5,000 years ago
  - 2,500 years ago
71. In which city did the Greek conqueror Alexander the Great die at the premature age of 33?
- Athens
  - Alexandria
  - Delhi
  - Babylon
72. Which famous battle did Charles Martel win, preventing Muslim invaders from overrunning France?
- Tours
  - Crécy
  - Châlons
  - Milvian Bridge
73. Which Christian city did European knights sack on the Fourth Crusade?
- Constantinople
  - Paris
  - Rome
  - Vienna
74. What European building was modelled on the design of King Solomon's original temple in Jerusalem?
- Palace of Versailles
  - El Escorial
  - St Paul's Cathedral
  - Crystal Palace
75. Which European Emperor was killed at the battle of Lützen?
- Gustavus Adolphus
  - Napoleon Bonaparte
  - Charlemagne
  - Charles V
76. Which French king was executed in the revolution of 1789?
- Louis XI
  - Louis XVI
  - Louis XVII
  - Louis XIV
77. Wilhelm Röntgen was a German scientist who discovered:
- Penicillin
  - Steel making
  - X-rays
  - Artificial fertilizers



78. Which French leader was captured by Prussian forces at the Battle of Sedan in September 1870?
- Napoleon Bonaparte
  - Napoleon III
  - Louis-Philippe I
  - Charles de Gaulle
79. Who invented the world's first battery?
- Alessandro Volta
  - James Watt
  - Louis Ampere
  - Georg Ohm
80. What nationality was the assassin of Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria?
- Croatian
  - Serbian
  - Bosnian
  - German

## SECTION 10: AMERICAS

81. Which ancient Mesoamerican people are famous for building these giant ceremonial stone heads?
- Olmecs
  - Nazca
  - Incas
  - Aztecs
82. According to the Mayan Long Calendar, the world will end in the year...
- 2100 CE
  - 2300 CE
  - 2410 CE
  - 2012 CE
83. What was the name of the Aztec feathered serpent god?
- Quetzalcoatl
  - Atlaua
  - Tlaloc
  - Itzli
84. Inca people used to send messages over long distances using...
- Kites
  - Bonfires
  - Hunting horns
  - Pieces of knotted rope
85. Which Inca emperor built himself a magnificent summer residence at Machu Picchu?
- Atahualpa
  - Manco Capac
  - Moctezuma
  - Pachacuti
86. Where did Spanish conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro ambush Inca leader Atahualpa and his retinue in 1532?
- Cajamarca
  - Kajaharo
  - Machu Picchu
  - Cuzco



87. What did the Native American tribesman known as Squanto do to help European settlers soon after they disembarked from the *Mayflower* in 1620?
- Find fresh water
  - Make fish-hooks
  - Cultivate crops
  - Brew beer

88. What disease is thought to have killed as many as 20 million out of 26 million Native Americans within 100 years of the arrival of European invaders?
- Spanish Flu
  - Tuberculosis
  - Smallpox
  - Syphilis

89. Which state did French emperor Napoleon sell to the United States for \$15 million?
- Alaska
  - Louisiana
  - California
  - Florida



90. What was the name of the black American who refused to give up a seat on a bus in Alabama to make room for a white passenger?
- Martin Luther King
  - Rosa Parks
  - B.B. King
  - President Obama



### SECTION 11: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

91. What is the name of the herdspeople who expanded from West Africa to cover most of the continent by AD 1600?
- Bantu
  - Mali
  - Zulu
  - Songhai
92. Which West African city became a hallowed centre of Islamic learning in the early sixteenth century?
- Casablanca
  - Lagos
  - Tunis
  - Timbuktu
93. The nineteenth-century Ashanti kings of West Africa ruled their people with the aid of...
- A magic wand
  - A golden stool
  - A pink diamond
  - A peppermint crown
94. Between 1600 and 1845 roughly how many Africans were taken and sold as slaves to work on American sugar and cotton plantations?
- 500,000
  - 5 million
  - 15 million
  - 150 million

95. Boer is a Dutch word for...
- Farmer
  - Trader
  - Monk
  - Bad company

96. The Boer War took place in which part of Africa?
- South Africa
  - Rhodesia
  - Botswana
  - Namibia

### SECTION 12: AUSTRALASIA

97. Which seventeenth-century European explorer was the first to discover the islands now known as New Zealand?
- James Cook
  - Willem Janszoon
  - Joseph Banks
  - Abel Tasman
98. Which of the following creatures is NOT native to Australia?
- Kangaroo
  - Rabbit
  - Wallaby
  - Koala
99. What was the name of the treaty that was signed in 1840 between European settlers in New Zealand and the Maori natives?
- Waterloo
  - Waikato
  - Waitangi
  - Wanatanga
100. For what did Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd officially apologize on 13 February 2008?
- The use of the outback as a nuclear testing zone
  - The killing of more than 500 million rabbits through the deliberate introduction of myxomatosis
  - The forcible removal of a 'stolen generation' of aboriginal children from their parents
  - Breaking protocol by taking Queen Elizabeth by the arm during a royal visit

