

Dog Days Trivia

The “Dog Days of Summer” generally occur between July 3 and August 11 each year. This activity includes two categories of trivia questions and answers related to dogs and the “dog days of summer.”

How-to & Tips

- Print a copy of the 30 trivia questions and answers.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Write each category on a whiteboard or flip chart to remind people what the trivia questions are about.
- Play like regular trivia—as a group or in teams. The “host” reads the question, and the group/team tries to come up with the answer. Keep score and award points if you want.
- Pause to discuss a question or ask a follow-up question. You might find that the activity goes in another direction.
- If people are having trouble answering the questions, give clues.
- Bring in some props related to the activity, such as pictures of dogs, a dog leash, a dog bowl, a pair of flip-flops, sunglasses, etc.



A Little About Dogs

1. What is the smallest dog breed: German shepherd or Chihuahua?

Answer: Chihuahua. According to the American Kennel Club, Chihuahuas generally weigh less than six pounds and are five to eight inches tall.

2. What do dogs commonly do to communicate affection: growl or wag their tail?

Answer: Wag their tail. A dog’s tail can also signal that they are unhappy. A stiff tail over their back is generally a warning sign.

3. Dogs are pack animals. Do pack animals like to be alone or in a group?
Answer: In a group. This behavior dates back to before dogs were domesticated and needed to stick together in packs to survive.
4. Finish the line: "You can't teach an old dog new _____."
Answer: Tricks. Having originated in 1546, this saying is believed to be one of the oldest idioms in the English language.
5. What was the name of Dorothy's dog in *The Wizard of Oz*: Mister Ed or Toto?
Answer: Toto. In the 1939 movie version of *The Wizard of Oz*, Toto was played by a cairn terrier named Terry.
6. In the nursery rhyme "Old Mother Hubbard," Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to fetch her poor dog what item: a chew toy or a bone?
Answer: A bone. The rhyme, which was first published around 1805, goes:
Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To fetch her poor dog a bone.
But when she got there
The cupboard was bare
And so the poor dog had none.
7. What is the fastest dog breed: dachshund or greyhound?
Answer: Greyhound. The greyhound can reach speeds of between 40 and 45 miles per hour.
8. What term do we use to refer to the leader of a dog's pack: *runt* or *alpha*?
Answer: Alpha. The pack relies on the alpha to make leadership decisions and provide protection.
9. What is the name of the famous collie on television that knew when Timmy fell down the well: Stewart or Lassie?
Answer: Lassie. *Lassie* ran from 1954 to 1974, with Lassie originally being played by a collie named Pal.
10. What do you use to keep a dog close to you on a walk: a bone or a leash?
Answer: A leash. Ancient art dating back to 4400 BC depicts the use of leashes to restrain dogs.

11. What president had a Scottish terrier named Fala: Jimmy Carter or Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

Answer: Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Fala often went with the president when he traveled. Americans would send the dog so much fan mail that they had to hire a secretary to handle it all.

12. What breed of dog is associated with firehouses: Labrador retriever or dalmatians?

Answer: Dalmatians. Before they served firefighters, the dogs were used to protect horses and horse-drawn coaches.

13. What breed of dog was movie star Rin-Tin-Tin: poodle or German shepherd?

Answer: German shepherd. Rin Tin Tin was rescued by an American soldier named Lee Duncan in France during World War I. After he was brought back to America, Rin Tin Tin went on to star in nearly 30 films.

14. What breed of dog is known for being a great tracking dog due to its excellent sense of smell: pug or bloodhound?

Answer: Bloodhound. It is believed that bloodhounds have roughly 230 million scent receptors in their snouts.

15. What was the name of Charlie Brown's beagle: Bob or Snoopy?

Answer: Snoopy. In the comic strip *Peanuts*, created by Charles Schulz, Snoopy is often making mischief or hanging out with his bird friend Woodstock.

A Little About Dog Days

16. Summer starts in what month in the northern hemisphere: October or June?

Answer: June. The official first day of summer is called the summer solstice, which falls on June 20, 21, or 22 each year.

17. What is the term for a prolonged period of hot weather: blizzard or heat wave?

Answer: Heat wave. Some cities experience blackouts during a heat wave.

18. If you were going to cook steaks outdoors, what might you cook them on: a sidewalk or a grill?

Answer: A grill. Grilling used to be an activity reserved for campsites and picnics. However, after World War II, backyard grilling became a popular summertime tradition.

19. What is another term for a firefly: fire ant or lightning bug?

Answer: Lightning bug. These nocturnal beetles get their name from the Greek word *lampein*, which means "to shine."

20. What do you put on your skin to protect you from the sun: baby oil or sunblock?

Answer: Sunblock. Zinc oxide paste has been a popular form of sunscreen for thousands of years.

21. What do you call a two-piece bathing suit: trunks or bikini?

Answer: Bikini. French designer Louis Réard designed the first bikini. It debuted on July 5, 1946, at a popular swimming pool in Paris.

22. Finish the line: "When life gives you lemons, make _____."

Answer: Lemonade. The saying means that one should try to make the best out of a bad situation. Lemonade is a popular summertime drink.

23. What would you need if you wanted to see underwater in the pool and not get water in your eyes: glasses or goggles?

Answer: Goggles. The first known goggles were made from polished tortoise shells in the 14th century.

24. What chemical is added to swimming pools to keep the water clean: peroxide or chlorine?

Answer: Chlorine. Chlorine kills bacteria through a chemical reaction. In recent years, some people have been filling their pools with salt water as a healthier alternative.

25. What do you call frozen flavored water on a stick: yogurt or a Popsicle?

Answer: Popsicle. Frank Epperson had his first frozen ice on a stick at age 11 and later went on to patent the Popsicle.

26. What large summertime fruit weighs an average of 20 pounds and is 92 percent water: a beet or a watermelon?

Answer: A watermelon. According to Guinness World Records, the largest watermelon ever grown weighed in at 268.8 pounds!

27. What do you use to ride a wave in the ocean: a Frisbee or a surfboard?

Answer: A surfboard. The first surfboards were made of solid wood and weighed around 77 pounds.

28. What is one way you can cool down during the dog days of summer?

Possible answers: Drink a cold beverage, use air-conditioning or a fan, go for a swim, take a shower, etc.

29. What type of open-toed shoes are worn in the summer: moccasins or sandals?

Answer: Sandals. Flip-flops are also worn in the summer.

30. Name one lawn game that is played in the summer.

Possible answers: Horseshoes, croquet, bocce, badminton, etc.

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(Questions with Answers)

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