



Comprehension Questions pages 4 - 11

1. When is the northern summer solstice?
2. When was the stone circle you can see at Stonehenge constructed?
3. When did the Celts arrive in Britain?
4. Which emperor led the Roman invasion of Britain?
5. Where in London can you see a statue of queen Boudicca?
6. What was a Roman fortress called?
7. What was a hypocaust?
8. What language did the Romans speak?
9. How long did the Romans occupy Britain for?
10. How many kingdoms were there in Anglo-Saxon Britain?
11. Which country did the Vikings mainly come from?
12. Could Alfred the Great read and write?
13. Which king was killed at the Battle of Hastings?
14. Which famous English author is buried at Winchester Cathedral?
15. How did king William II die?
16. Who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury?
17. How many monasteries were there in England by 1200?
18. When did the power of the monasteries end?
19. What is the plan of English cathedrals known as?
20. Why were the windows of Norman cathedrals small?
21. Which English cathedral has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site?
22. Why were cathedrals built as high as possible?
23. Which cathedral has the tallest spire in Europe?
24. Why is the Magna Carta considered an important document?

Answers

1. On or around 21st June.
2. Around 1500 BC.
3. Around 500 BC (fifth century BC).
4. Claudius.
5. Westminster Bridge.
6. Castra.
7. A type of underfloor heating.
8. Latin.
9. Nearly 400 years.
10. Four.
11. Denmark.
12. Yes.
13. Harold II.
14. Jane Austen.
15. Killed by an arrow while hunting.
16. Augustine.
17. About 900.
18. In 1536.
19. Latin cross.
20. So as not to weaken the walls.
21. Durham cathedral.
22. As a symbol of man reaching to Heaven.
23. Salisbury cathedral.
24. Because it restricted the power of the king and gave certain rights to the people.



Comprehension Questions pages 12 - 19

1. When and where was Thomas Becket murdered?
2. In the *Canterbury Tales* where in London do the pilgrims begin their journey to Canterbury?
3. How many *Canterbury Tales* did Chaucer plan to write?
4. Why did William the Conqueror have problems invading Wales?
5. Where does the word 'Welsh' come from?
6. Which king was nicknamed 'Lionheart'?
7. Which king built the 'Iron Ring' of castles in Wales?
8. How did the Welsh prince Dafydd die?
9. What title does the eldest son of the monarch traditionally hold?
10. When was William Wallace finally captured and executed?
11. Which English king was defeated at the Battle of Bannockburn?
12. What is the Saltire?
13. What was the main part of a manor house?
14. Why did chimneys and fireplaces become common in Tudor buildings?
15. Did the Tudors paint their buildings black and white?
16. Which country influenced building in Britain during the Elizabethan period?
17. What was the long gallery in an Elizabethan mansion used for in bad weather?
18. Where are the best examples of Georgian terraces in England?
19. How did cathedral windows change in the 14th century?
20. Which was the last important Gothic church to be built before the Reformation?
21. Why was there very little religious building in the 16th century?
22. Which is the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe?
23. Why did many immigrants come to Norwich in the 16th century?
24. Which was the second largest city in Britain until the beginning of the 18th century?

Answers

1. 29th December 1170.
2. The Tabard Inn.
3. 128.
4. Mountain, forests and the rain.
5. From the Anglo-Saxon word 'wealas', meaning foreigners.
6. Richard I.
7. Edward I.
8. He was hanged, drawn and quartered.
9. Prince of Wales.
10. In 1305.
11. Edward II.
12. The Scottish flag.
13. The Hall.
14. Because coal (which produces unpleasant smoke) began to be used as a fuel.
15. No, the Victorians painted them black and white much later.
16. The Netherlands.
17. Exercise.
18. In Bath.
19. They became larger and more colourful.
20. Bath Abbey.
21. There were enough churches for the population, and the institution of the Church was out of favour with the king, Henry VIII.
22. York Minster.
23. To escape religious persecution.
24. Norwich.



Comprehension Questions pages 20 - 27

1. What is the symbol of the House of York?
2. Who was the last English king to be killed on the battlefield?
3. What was the original role of the Beefeaters at the Tower of London?
4. How old was Henry VIII when he became king?
5. How did Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, die?
6. Was Anne of Cleves Henry VIII's favourite wife?
7. Why was Catherine Howard, Henry VIII's fifth wife, executed?
8. What was the occupation of Cardinal Wolsey's father?
9. Why did Cardinal Wolsey give Hampton Court Palace to Henry VIII?
10. How old was Henry VIII's son Edward when he became king?
11. Where is Henry VIII buried?
12. How many of Henry VIII's children became kings or queens of England?
13. Who became queen for nine days after Edward VI died?
14. Why was Mary I nicknamed 'Bloody Mary'?
15. How were Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots related?
16. How long had Mary, Queen of Scots been in prison before she was finally executed?
17. What did Sir Francis Drake become the first Englishman to do in 1580?
18. When was the attempted invasion of England by the Spanish Armada?
19. Which American state was named for Elizabeth I?
20. How many plays did Shakespeare write?
21. How old was Shakespeare when he died?
22. What was the name of the theatre where most of Shakespeare's works were performed?
23. What did the Puritans do to theatres in 1642?
24. Was Shakespeare a wealthy man when he died?

Answers

1. The white rose.
2. Richard III.
3. They were Henry VII's bodyguards.
4. Seventeen.
5. After childbirth, as a result of a caesarian section.
6. No, he thought she was ugly.
7. Adultery.
8. He was a butcher.
9. To try and win back his favour.
10. Nine.
11. At Windsor Castle.
12. Three.
13. Lady Jane Grey.
14. Because she had many Protestants burnt at the stake.
15. They were cousins.
16. Nineteen years.
17. Circumnavigate the globe.
18. In 1588.
19. Virginia.
20. Thirty-six.
21. Fifty-two.
22. The Globe.
23. They closed them.
24. Yes.



Comprehension Questions pages 28 - 35

1. Who tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and the king in 1605?
2. Who designed the Banqueting House and the Queen's House?
3. Which queen was the Queen's House in Greenwich originally intended for?
4. When was Charles I beheaded?
5. Who ruled the country after Charles I was beheaded?
6. Why did none of Charles II's thirteen children succeed him?
7. How many people died from the Great Plague of 1665?
8. How many London churches did Wren design after the Great Fire?
9. Where in London is the Monument?
10. Who perfected a chronometer in 1759?
11. What was the role of women in London's coffee houses?
12. Which English king made wig wearing fashionable?
13. What nationality was William III?
14. According to the Bill of Rights, who could not become king?
15. What nationality was George I?
16. Who did the Duke of Marlborough defeat at the Battle of Blenheim?
17. Who designed Blenheim Palace?
18. Which famous Briton was born at Blenheim Palace in 1874?
19. During the slave trade which products were brought back from the Caribbean and sold in Britain?
20. Which city was considered 'the second city of the Empire' during the Victorian era?
21. Which Liverpool-based company operated the Titanic?
22. What is William Huskisson famous for?
23. What is the nickname of the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool?
24. What style of design is Charles Rennie Mackintosh famous for?

Answers

1. Guy Fawkes.
2. Inigo Jones.
3. Queen Anne of Denmark (wife of James I)
4. In 1649.
5. Oliver Cromwell.
6. Because they were all illegitimate.
7. About 100,000 people.
8. Fifty-three.
9. It is near the northern end of London Bridge.
10. John Harrison.
11. To serve the coffee.
12. Charles II.
13. Dutch.
14. A Catholic, or anyone married to a Catholic.
15. German.
16. The French.
17. Sir John Vanburgh.
18. Winston Churchill.
19. Sugar, tobacco and rum.
20. Glasgow.
21. The White Star Line.
22. He was the first person to be killed by a train.
23. Paddys' wigwam.
24. Art nouveau.



Comprehension Questions pages 36 - 43

1. Which university is older – Oxford or Cambridge?
2. Who was King's College, Cambridge originally intended for?
3. When were women first allowed to get a degree from Cambridge?
4. Who built the Iron Bridge?
5. Was it free to cross the Iron Bridge?
6. When was the Iron Bridge first opened?
7. What kind of goods was Birmingham famous for?
8. What did Matthew Boulton's factory produce?
9. How did the Lunar Society get its name?
10. What important shipbuilding material came from the New Forest?
11. How was Nelson's body brought back to England?
12. How long had the Mary Rose been at the bottom of the sea?
13. Who designed the Circus in Bath?
14. Which building in Bath was inspired by the Ponte Vecchio in Florence?
15. Who made Bath an important social centre?
16. Which house is said to be the oldest in Bath?
17. How long did it take to get from London to Bath in the late 18th century?
18. Who wrote the novels *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*?
19. Why did sea-bathing originally become popular?
20. Why couldn't George III rule the country from 1811?
21. Who designed Brighton Pavilion?
22. Why was the Prince Regent's marriage to Maria Fitzherbert annulled?
23. What did Prince George ask for when he first saw Caroline, his future wife?
24. How many illegitimate children did William IV have?

Answers

1. Oxford.
2. The boys of Eton.
3. 1947.
4. Abraham Darby III
5. No, there was a toll.
6. New Year's Day 1781.
7. Metal goods.
8. Steam engines.
9. The Society met every month when there was a full moon.
10. Oak.
11. In a barrel of brandy.
12. 437 years.
13. John Wood the elder.
14. Pultney Bridge.
15. Beau Nash.
16. Sally Lunn's house.
17. 24 hours.
18. Jane Austen.
19. Because it was thought to be good for the health.
20. Because he was suffering from porphyria.
21. John Nash.
22. Because she was a Catholic.
23. A glass of brandy.
24. Ten.



Comprehension Questions pages 44 - 51

1. How old was Victoria when she became queen?
2. Where was the Crystal Palace built for the Great Exhibition?
3. How old was Prince Albert when he died?
4. When was Britain's first major canal opened?
5. When was the Manchester Ship Canal opened?
6. What was the effect of the Corn Laws on poor people?
7. What was the average life expectancy for men in 1750?
8. Who wrote the novel *Hard Times*?
9. How were cholera and typhoid spread?
10. Which king of England and Scotland was born in Edinburgh Castle?
11. What kind of architecture is Charlotte Square famous for?
12. How many men died during the construction of the Forth Bridge?
13. Where in Edinburgh can you see a statue of Sir Walter Scott?
14. Which famous detective was modelled on Dr Joseph Bell?
15. What did Dr Knox buy from Burke and Hare?
16. Who sailed from Bristol to America in 1497?
17. Why did Liverpool become a more popular port than Bristol?
18. How many cigars did Brunel smoke a day?
19. Who designed the Rocket?
20. Where did Queen Victoria die?
21. What disappeared from the roads soon after the invention of the railways?
22. Which play did Shakespeare write for Elizabeth I?
23. How many kings and queens are buried at Windsor Castle?
24. What happened to the body of Henry VIII before it reached Windsor?

Answers

1. Eighteen.
2. Hyde Park.
3. Forty-two.
4. 1761.
5. 1894.
6. They made bread expensive because cheap corn could not be imported.
7. Thirty-one.
8. Charles Dickens.
9. By people drinking contaminated water.
10. James I.
11. Georgian.
12. Nearly 100.
13. Princes Street.
14. Sherlock Holmes.
15. Dead bodies.
16. John Cabot.
17. Because the River Avon was not very deep and difficult to navigate.
18. Forty.
19. George Stephenson.
20. At Osborne House.
21. Stagecoaches.
22. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.
23. Ten.
24. It exploded.



Comprehension Questions pages 52 – 59

1. What were married women over the age of 30 finally allowed to do in 1918?
2. How many men died fighting for Britain in the First World War?
3. Where was Agatha Christie born?
4. How many of Queen Victoria's grandchildren sat on the thrones of European countries?
5. Which King changed his German name to Windsor?
6. How many children do Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip have?
7. What percentage of Irish land was owned by Irish Catholics in the late 18th century?
8. Daniel O'Connell became an MP in 1828, but what was his profession?
9. How many people emigrated to the USA after the 'famine'?
10. What does Sinn Féin mean?
11. When did Ireland gain full independence from Britain?
12. Who wrote *Ulysses*?
13. Where did Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson live after his abdication?
14. In which city was the cathedral destroyed during a bombing raid in WW2?
15. How old was Elizabeth II when she became Queen?
16. Where is Sir Isaac Newton buried?
17. What is the statue in the middle of Piccadilly Circus?
18. What is Big Ben?
19. How many years did it take to complete St Paul's Cathedral?
20. Where were Henry VIII and Elizabeth I born?
21. At what age did Lord Nelson first go to sea?
22. What is the tallest building in London & the UK?
23. What is the world's most popular tourist attraction?
24. Who designed the Swiss Re Tower?

Answers

1. Vote.
2. Approximately 700,000.
3. Torquay.
4. Eight.
5. George V.
6. Four.
7. 5%.
8. He was a lawyer.
9. About three million.
10. Ourselves alone.
11. 1949.
12. James Joyce.
13. France.
14. Coventry.
15. Twenty-five.
16. Westminster Abbey.
17. Eros.
18. A bell.
19. Thirty-five years.
20. Greenwich.
21. Twelve.
22. One Canada Square.
23. The London Eye.
24. Sir Norman Foster and Ken Shuttleworth.