

I Had No Idea!

Game created by Betsy Long

Based on the book: Little Known Facts About Well-Known Stuff by David Hoffman

Instructions:

- This game is not specifically holiday related so it can be used any time of the year, and can be done preferably in teams of 2 to 5. This can be done with departments, small companies, families and friends.

- Tools that you will need: a pen for each team, copies of Round 1 for all individuals and 1 copy of Round 2, 3 and the true/false sheets for each team (this information appears on the upper left of each of those sheets for easy reference), and a copy of the master sheet with the answers and instructions for the facilitator. If you decide to give prizes, you will need prizes for the top team or the top two teams, etc. Fold each of the true/false sheets in half and if you have tape, just tape one side to the other at the edge.

- Divide the group into teams of 2 to 5 people.

Note: Try to avoid teams of 6 or more to make sure that all of the people participate.

- Give everyone a copy of Round 1 and give 1 pen per team.

- Have each team come up with a name and have them write it on the top of their sheet.

Note: This adds to the camaraderie and also keeps the game sheets identified by team.

- **Key Rule:** No form of technology can be used besides your own brain. If anyone on your team is caught using a phone, tablet, etc., your team will forfeit that round.

Round 1: How Much, How Many?

Numbers Match - 9 Questions

- Each team needs to identify one person who will be the one to gather the final answers on their sheet and should check mark "Master" at the top of their sheet to make it clear.

Note: Every team member has a copy of the sheet so they can easily see what the choices are for reference.

- Each team has five minutes to discuss it and match up the correct number with the right question by writing the correct answer's letter in the blank after each question on the master list.

Note: amount of time can change depending on how quickly your groups get done, so do check-in's every once in while.

- Let them know that there are some bogus numbers to make it a little more challenging so not all numbers will match up to questions.

- Once all of the teams are done, have each team trade sheets with another team.

- Inform them that for each answer that is right, they should put a number "1" in the line to the left of each question so the points can be totaled.

- Read the answers out loud, and at the end, ask everyone to total up the points for the number correct, and write it at the top of the page and return it to the correct team.

- Then ask which teams had a perfect score of 9, and who had the score of 8 so that there is some fun and recognition of competition.

Note: If no team had a 9 or an 8, of course go to 7 & 6, etc.

Round 2: Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

True or False - 12 Questions

- if you have enough chairs to put in front of the group so that people can come and sit in them and face them, that is great, or they can just answer the question from their seats or by standing up.

Note: It adds a fun element if you have them sitting up front (if it is possible) because the group then gets to see each person give their individual answers.

- Pass out one copy of the Round 2 sheet to each team and ask them to write their team name on the top of the page.

- The team needs to identify one person to keep the score of this next round and from the remaining team members, write on their sheet who will go up to represent them for which back to back questions, making sure that each of the remaining team members gets a turn and knows when to be ready to get up and go upfront to keep the game moving.

- The first team member goes and sits in the chair up front is given the true/false paper.

Note: this can be a piece of cardboard or card stock with true and false written on opposite sides, or on two different colored pieces of paper with the word true on one side and false on the other. I created the template to be true and false on either end of a paper sheet so that you fold in half to keep the game logistics simple :-)

- Standing to the side and facing them, read the first statement and tell them to hold up their response of true or false regarding the statement.

Note: you're standing to the side to let the audience/their team members watch what's going on.

- Once everyone has their signs up, announce the correct answer and each team should mark down 1 point on their Round 2 sheet if the answer is correct.

- People should swap out quickly with their team members according to the schedule they made.

- After all of the statements in the round are done, ask them to total up the number of correct answers they had.

Round 3: So Many Choices

Multiple Choice - 11 Questions Plus Bonus Tiebreaker Question

- This final round is done by the whole team at their table.
- Pass out 1 copy of Round 3 two each team and have them write their name at the top.
- Give them approximately five minutes to decide which of the three answers for every question is the correct one and they should circle what they as a group think is the correct answer.
Note: the timing is up to you depending on how quickly your groups come up with answers; check in with them to see where they are about 3 to 4 minutes and shorten or lengthen the time accordingly.
- Have them trade sheets with another team. Read the answers out loud and they should mark the ones that have the correct answer, then total the points and pass it back.
- Each team should now total all of their points from the three different rounds. If there is less than a 10 point difference between the top 2 teams, ask the bonus question to each of those two teams and the winner will be either who gets it right, or who is the quickest with the right answer if they both get it right or if neither get it right, it is based on the higher score.
Note: this just adds a little competitive excitement and fun at the end :-)
- Distribute any prizes to the top team or top two teams (whatever levels you would like to recognize).

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Answer Key

Round 1: How Much, How Many?

1. Using the highest ranked grade of Velcro, how many square inches of it would you need to stick a 160 pound person to a wall?

1 I. 4

2. How many gallons of fuel does a Boeing 747 hold?

2 A. 57,285

3. When glass breaks, how fast in miles per hour do the cracks move?

3 E. or O. 300

4. In 1987 when American Airlines decided to eliminate one olive from each salad served in first class that year, how much money did they save?

4 P. 40,000

5. How many individual Cheerios equals a 1 ounce serving?

5 L. 400

6. How many feet wide is the Statue of Liberty's mouth?

6 B. 3

7. Going downhill, what is the maximum speed that a Hot Wheel car can reach?

7 E. or O. 300

8. How many possible hands are there in a five card poker game?

8 F. 2,598,960

9. On the average, how many noodles are there in a can of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup?

9 C. 216

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Answer Key

Round 2: Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

10. Mosquito repellent is designed to taste badly to mosquitoes to prevent them from biting you.

10a False. Mosquito repellent does not actually repel mosquitoes; it hides you by blocking the mosquito's sensors so they don't realize you are there.

11. The Ramses brand of condoms is named after a large male sheep that the condom inventor owned.

11a False. The condom was named after the great Pharaoh Ramses II, who fathered over 160 children.

12. Duct tape was originally called duck tape.

12a True. Duck tape was originally green and developed by Johnson & Johnson for the US military to waterproof and blend in with their ammunition cases. During the post war housing boom, it was discovered that it was also good for heating and air-conditioning duct work so the color was changed from army green to silver and that's when it became duct tape.

13. The first athlete to appear on the Wheaties box was Babe Ruth.

13a False. Lou Gehrig in 1924

14. The star in the Macy's logo was taken from a tattoo.

14a True. It was taken from the tattoo on the founder R. H. Macy's hand.

15. Vincent van Gogh only sold 15 paintings in his lifetime.

15a False. He only sold one painting in his whole life and that was to his brother.

16. The game Yahtzee and the game Bingo are related.

16a True. A couple invented it and played it on their yacht. They asked Edwin Lowe of Bingo fame to make some samples up that they could give as gifts, and he liked it so much that he

asked if he could buy the rights. They traded the samples that they had requested for the rights and he renamed it Yahtzee because it started as a yacht game

17. There was a whoopee cushion shortage in the 1980's.

17a True. The reason was they were made by rubber manufacturers in Asia, and in the 1980's they had to devote their entire workforce to the production of surgical gloves and condoms in order to meet the increased demand created by the AIDS crisis.

18. Tinkertoys were invented by a construction worker.

18a False. They were invented by a tombstone designer and salesman who noticed his children making abstract structures with pencils and empty spools of thread.

19. The cost to mint a penny is 3/4 of a cent.

19a False. The cost to make a penny is more than one cent.

20. In chess, the term checkmate comes from Persia.

20a True. Checkmate comes from the Persian phrase Shah Mat, which means "the king is dead".

21. Jerky got its name from a Scandinavian term for 'dried beef'.

21a False. Jerky got its name from 'charki', the Inca word for 'dried llama meat'.

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Answer Key

Round 3: So Many Choices

22. Which of these is not true about Liza Minnelli:

- A. Managed by Gene Simmons of Kiss
- B. Starred in 10 full length movies
- C. Was the inspiration for the children's book character Eloise

22 B. She starred in 17 full length movies

23. Which TV show is the only TV show with no theme song or music?

- A. Face the Nation
- B. Dateline
- C. 60 Minutes

23 C. 60 Minutes

24. Which is the single longest running commercial in television history?

- A Tootsie Roll, "How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop?"
- B. Life Cereal, "Let Mikey try it, he hates everything"
- C. Wendy's, "Where's the beef?"

24 B. Life Cereal which aired nationally for 12 years

25. Which of these things did Dr. William Moulton Marston, a Harvard psychologist, not create?

- A. The Lie Detector
- B. Wonder Woman
- C. Mad magazine

25 C. Mad Magazine

26. How many times has Michael Jordan appeared on the Wheaties box?

- A. 7
- B. 12
- C. 18

26 C. 18

27. What business did Ben and Jerry originally want to go into?

- A. Fruit Smoothies
- B. Bagels
- C. Cheese Making

27 B. Bagels. But when they discovered that the equipment alone would cost \$40,000, they opted to take a five dollar correspondence course in ice cream making instead

28. Which of these roles was not held by E. C. Gilbert, the man who invented the Erector Set:

- A. A physician
- B. An architect
- C. A Olympic gold-medalist

28 B. He was not an architect. He was a Yale medical school graduated physician and a pole vaulting gold-medalist at the 1908 Olympic games.

29. Not counting vowels, what is the most frequently used letter in the English language?

- A. R
- B. S
- C. T

29 C. T

30 The term "knuckle down" comes from what game:

- A. Billiards
- B. Marbles
- C. Wrestling

30 B. Marbles because players put their knuckles to the ground for their best shot.

31. Which fruit will not float in Jell-O:

- A. Grapes
- B. Cherries
- C. Pineapple

31 A. Grapes

32. The copyrighted name for the colorful marshmallow shapes in the cereal Lucky Charms is:

- A. Marbits
- B. Mallowcharms
- C. Minimalallows

32 A. Marbits

Bonus Question

Extra 10 points (for fun or as a tiebreaker): The initial concept of Lucky Charms came from a General Mills Vice President mixing Cheerios with what?

Bonus answer: Cut up pieces of orange marshmallow circus peanuts.

**The following pages are the game sheets;
printing/copying information is in the upper left corner
of each sheet. Have fun!**

1 sheet per person

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Master _____

Team Name _____

Round 1: How Much, How Many?

Number Match

As a team, decide which answer goes to which question and write that letter to the left of each question. Beware, there are extra "answers" trying to trick you!

Correct **Letter of**
Answer

- _____ _____ 1. Using the highest ranked grade of Velcro, how many square inches of it would you need to stick a 160 pound person to a wall?
- _____ _____ 2. How many gallons of fuel does a Boeing 747 hold?
- _____ _____ 3. When glass breaks, how fast in miles per hour do the cracks move?
- _____ _____ 4. In 1987 when American Airlines decided to eliminate one olive from each salad served in first class that year, how much money did they save?
- _____ _____ 5. How many individual Cheerios equals a 1 ounce serving?
- _____ _____ 6. How many feet wide is the Statue of Liberty's mouth?
- _____ _____ 7. Going downhill, what is the maximum speed that a Hot Wheel car can reach?
- _____ _____ 8. How many possible hands are there in a five card poker game?
- _____ _____ 9. On the average, how many noodles are there in a can of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup?

A. 57,285

B. 3

C. 216

D. 73,000

E. 300

F. 2,598,960

G. 945

H. 3,700

I. 4

J. 45

K. 5,739,000

L. 400

M. 76

N. 8,500

O. 300

P. 40,000

_____ **Total Correct**

1 sheet per team

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Team Name _____

Round 2: Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

True or False

Select one team member to be the scorekeeper, and then divide up the questions into sections that each other team member takes individually so that everyone will take a turn!

Correct	Who is in the hot seat!	Statement #
_____	_____	10
_____	_____	11
_____	_____	12
_____	_____	13
_____	_____	14
_____	_____	15
_____	_____	16
_____	_____	17
_____	_____	18
_____	_____	19
_____	_____	20
_____	_____	21

_____ **Total Correct**

1 sheet per team

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Team Name _____

Round 3: So Many Choices

Multiple Choice

As a team, agree on which answer is correct and put that letter to the left of each question.

**Correct Letter of
Answer**

_____ 22. Which of these is not true about Liza Minnelli:

- A. Managed by Gene Simmons of Kiss
- B. Starred in 10 full length movies
- C. Was the inspiration for the children's book character Eloise

_____ 23. Which TV show is the only TV show with no theme song or music?

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 - C. Minimalallows

_____ **Total Correct**

Fill in the scores for all 3 sheets and add them up!

Round 1 _____ + Round 2 _____ + Round 3 _____ = _____

1 sheet per team & fold in half with words out

True

F

alse