

Library Christmas Quiz 2023

Round 1. Afflicting the comfortable

(Identify the product/service provider from the description of these seasonal adverts)

1. A lonely chocolate bar finds love with a Brussels sprout, in 2021.
2. To Silent Night, a dramatisation of the Xmas truce on the Western Front, in which a German infantryman ends up with a British soldier's chocolate bar. *(Bonus point for the year this advert was released)*
3. This year, a small boy raises a massive Venus flytrap that sings with the voice of Andrea Bocelli and disgorges presents at his family.
4. In 2017 a snowman's nose called Kevin detaches itself from its host's face and goes indoors where it sees another, rather alluring, female carrot, across a table loaded with festive food. After facing some obstacles he finally ends up with her and they swoop away on a flying train.
5. In 2014, while Santa's out delivering presents, Mrs Claus gets a letter from Jake asking her to replace his older sister's trainers which he accidentally destroyed. She helps out using a helicopter, getting back to lie on the sofa when Santa returns.
6. A 2006 skit of Raymond Brigg's snowman in which the boy and the snowman get into fight over a can of drink while flying over a winter landscape leading the snowman to let go of the boy who falls into a snowdrift to leave a boy-shaped hole.
7. Directed by Taika Wakiti, a worker on an oil rig forgets to post his daughter's letter to Santa. After removing a bottle of drink he discovers it at the bottom of his sandwich box and then goes on a gruelling quest across the Arctic wastes to deliver said letter.

Round 2. Wo oh oh you're in the Arctic now!

(Identify these islands or archipelagos that lie within or near the Arctic Circle from the English translations of the names of their capitals/principal settlements)

1. Smoky bay in Old Norse
2. Cape in Inuit
3. Place of many fish in Inuktitut
4. Beluga whale bay in Russian
5. The long year town in Norwegian

(Bonus point for identifying the island or archipelago that actually lies almost entirely outside the Arctic Circle)

Round 3. Come on in the water's fine!

(Five questions on aquatic animals that live in polar regions)

1. Which aquatic arctic mammal, nicknamed the sea canary because of its high-pitched calls, also has capacity for mimicking human voices, and has caused divers to surface by imitating commands to get out of the water over their communication systems?
2. What is displayed in Warwick Castle as the rib of the Dun Cow, a ferocious bovine killed in legend by Guy of Warwick?
3. Which aquatic arctic creatures are believed by the Haida people of the North West Coast of North America to live in houses and towns under the sea? The Yupik people of Siberia believe them to appear as wolves in winter and the Latin name for their genus means 'Of the kingdom of the dead'.
4. In Inuit mythology the aurora borealis are believed to be caused by the souls of the dead playing ball with the head of which animal, which also has a link to a famous chess set?
5. Blue whales are aged by counting the layers of what substance that builds up on an annual basis, rather like tree rings?

Round 4. Coronation, chicken?

(Five questions on coronations)

1. At the coronation of which British monarch did Lord Rolle roll down the stairs and the monarch being crowned get up to go because they thought the ceremony was over when it hadn't in fact finished?
2. James J. Strang established an ecclesiastical monarchy and crowned himself with a metal ring with shiny glass stars on the front on Beaver Island in Michigan in 1850. He ruled for six years before being assassinated. To which religious group did he belong?
3. In which country is the monarch presented with a nine-tiered umbrella as part of the coronation ceremony?
4. The customary title of Indlovukazi is bestowed on the Queen Mother of Eswatini on the coronation of the monarch. What does this translate as in English?
5. What are the principal ingredients of coronation quiche?

Round 5. Christmas cracker jokes (from TV channel Gold competition)

(Guess the punchline or make up your own)

1. Why is Elon Musk's Christmas dinner so awkward?
2. Why aren't any schools allowed to put on a nativity this year?
3. What's the difference between The Polar Express and HS2?
4. Did you hear about the Christmas cake on display in the British Museum?
5. What impact will the 20mph speed limit in Wales have on the charts this year?

Answers:

Round 1

1. Celebrations
2. Sainsbury's, 2014
3. John Lewis
4. Aldi

5. M&S
6. Irn-Bru
7. Coca-Cola

Round 2

1. Iceland (Reykjavik)
2. Greenland (Nuuk)
3. Baffin Island (Iqaluit)
4. Novaya Zemlya (Belushya Guba)
5. Svalbard (Longyearbyen)

Bonus: Mainland Iceland lies entirely without the Arctic Circle.

Greenland and Baffin Island straddle it. Svalbard and Novaya Zemlya lie entirely within.

Round 3

1. Beluga.
2. A narwhal tusk
3. Orca or Killer Whale
4. Walrus
5. Its earwax

Round 4

1. Queen Victoria.
2. Church of the Latter Day Saints, Mormonism
3. Thailand
4. The Great She-Elephant
5. Spinach, broad beans, tarragon

Round 5

1. He's always talking about his X.
2. They couldn't find a stable building.

3. One's a fantasy about a train the other's a film with Tom Hanks.
4. It was stolen.
5. Chris Rea will be driving home for Easter.