Christmas trivia

How to play

> The source beside each revealed answer lets you check it. Accept equivalent names and spellings when the team has clearly identified the right answer.

1. Choose one host and two or three teams. The host reads the questions and keeps the answer sheet out of sight. Each of the five categories has five questions worth 100, 200, 300, 400 or 500 points.
2. Write the category names across a sheet of paper, with those five values beneath each name. Teams take turns choosing an unused category and value. The host reads that question and allows 30 seconds for the choosing team to agree on one answer.
3. A correct answer earns its printed value. For a wrong answer or a timeout, give the next team ten seconds and one guess to steal those points. If it also misses, reveal the answer and award no points.
4. Cross off the question and pass the choice to the next team, regardless of who scored. Keep a running total on paper. Play the whole set or agree on a smaller number of categories before you begin.
5. Highest total wins. If teams finish tied, read the closest-answer tie-breaker below and have each tied team write one guess. Closest wins; equally close guesses share the win.

Give everyone a turn

Mix children and adults across the teams. For a gentle start, choose Santa and His Reindeer or Christmas Stories; those categories include Rudolph, Whoville and Scrooge. Let teams discuss each answer, then rotate who speaks for them. The point values are a way to score the game, so feel free to choose familiar subjects first rather than assuming every 100-point question will be easy for your group.

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Christmas trivia

Question categories

Christmas Around the World

100 points · Which country is widely associated with the development of the decorated Christmas tree tradition?

Answer: Germany

Reference: christmas-plants-traditions-science-festive-flora.html

200 points · What do children in the Netherlands traditionally leave out for Sinterklaas, often with a carrot or hay for his horse?

Answer: Their shoes

Reference: Sinterklaas

300 points · What is the name of the Mexican tradition that re-enacts Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in the nine nights before Christmas?

Answer: Las Posadas

Reference: Las Posadas

400 points · Which country gives London the giant Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square every year?

Answer: Norway

Reference: christmas

500 points · In Japan, which fast-food chain's fried chicken is a popular Christmas meal?

Answer: KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken)

Reference: how-kentucky-for-christmas-began-in-japan

Songs and Carols

100 points · Finish the song title: "Rudolph the Red-Nosed ___".

Answer: Reindeer

Reference: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (song)

200 points · In "The Twelve Days of Christmas", what is given on the fifth day?

Answer: Five gold (golden) rings

Reference: The Twelve Days of Christmas (song)

300 points · Which singer recorded the classic 1942 version of White Christmas?

Answer: Bing Crosby

Reference: White Christmas (song)

400 points · "Silent Night" was first performed in 1818 in which country?

Answer: Austria (in Oberndorf)

Reference: Silent Night

500 points · Who sings "All I Want for Christmas Is You", first released in 1994?

Answer: Mariah Carey

Reference: All I Want for Christmas Is You

Christmas trivia

Question categories

Santa and His Reindeer

100 points · What color is Santa's suit usually shown as?

Answer: Red (with white trim)

Reference: Santa Claus

200 points · Which reindeer has a glowing red nose?

Answer: Rudolph

Reference: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

300 points · Name one of the eight reindeer in the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" ('Twas the Night Before Christmas).

Answer: Any of: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner (Dunder/Donder), Blitzen (Blixem)

Reference: A Visit from St. Nicholas

400 points · In many US Christmas stories, where does Santa live?

Answer: The North Pole

Reference: Santa Claus

500 points · Saint Nicholas, who inspired Santa Claus, was bishop of Myra. Which country is Myra in today?

Answer: Turkey

Reference: Saint Nicholas

Christmas Stories

100 points · In "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!", which town does the Grinch try to steal Christmas from?

Answer: Whoville

Reference: How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

200 points · What is Scrooge's first name in "A Christmas Carol"?

Answer: Ebenezer

Reference: A Christmas Carol

300 points · Who wrote "A Christmas Carol"?

Answer: Charles Dickens

Reference: A Christmas Carol

400 points · How many ghosts visit Scrooge, counting Jacob Marley?

Answer: Four (Marley plus three spirits)

Reference: A Christmas Carol

500 points · Who composed the music for the ballet "The Nutcracker"?

Answer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Reference: The Nutcracker

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Final category and tie-breaker

Food and Treats

100 points · What do children in the US traditionally leave out for Santa?

Answer: Milk and cookies

Reference: Santa Claus

200 points · What spice gives gingerbread its name?

Answer: Ginger

Reference: Gingerbread

300 points · What shape is a classic candy cane?

Answer: A J or hook (a shepherd's crook)

Reference: Candy cane

400 points · Which creamy holiday drink is made with milk, sugar and eggs, often topped with nutmeg?

Answer: Eggnog

Reference: Eggnog

500 points · Name one dried grape ingredient used in a traditional Christmas pudding.

Answer: Raisins or currants

Reference: Christmas pudding

Tie-breaker: closest answer wins

Tie-breaker · How many gifts are given across all twelve days of The Twelve Days of Christmas, counting the repeated gifts each day? Closest wins.

Answer: 364

Reference: The Twelve Days of Christmas (song)

Use only for a tied score. Equally close answers share the win.