



PUB TRIVIA



ROUND 1- SCIENCE DOWN UNDER

1. How much has the Northern Territory Geological Survey estimated Uluru weighs? (Just the part above ground).

- A) 140,000 tonnes (over 900 blue whales)
- B) 1.4 million tonnes (over 9,000 blue whales)
- C) 140 million tonnes (over 900,000 blue whales)
- D) 1.4 billion tonnes (over 9 million blue whales)

ANSWER: D) 1.4 billion tonnes.

Written out in full that's 1,425,000,000 tonnes. This assumes that each blue whale weighs 150 tonnes.

Source: <https://uluru.gov.au/discover/highlights/amazing-facts/>

2. David Unaipon was a Ngarrindjeri (pronounced nya-rin-ja-ry) inventor and human rights campaigner. He features on Australia's \$50 note. He used boomerangs as inspiration to develop an idea for what sort of flying machine over 20 years before one was built in real life?

ANSWER: A helicopter

Bonus info: He has sometimes been described as Australia's Leonardo da Vinci for these ideas)

Source: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/david-ngunaitponi-unaipon>

3. What is the name of Australia's current Chief Scientist?

ANSWER: Professor Tony Haymet

Source: <https://www.industry.gov.au/science-technology-and-innovation/tony-haymet>

4. As of 2023/24, what percentage of Australia's total energy production comes from renewable energy?

- A) 26%
- B) 36%
- C) 46%
- D) 56%

ANSWER: B) 36%

Source: <https://www.energy.gov.au/energy-data/australian-energy-statistics/renewables>

5. What sort of tests were conducted at Maralinga in South Australia in 1956 that resulted in the displacement of Tjarutja people from their homelands?

ANSWER: Atomic/nuclear tests

Bonus info: One bomb was twice the size of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. A Royal Commission was later conducted into the actions of both the British and Australian Governments during this testing. It specifically condemned the lack of commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of Indigenous people.

Source: <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/maralinga>,
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-24/maralinga-nuclear-tests-ground-zero-lesser-known-history/11882608>

6. What colour diamonds was the Argyle Diamond Mine in Western Australia most famous for?

ANSWER: Pink

Bonus info: While operating, the Argyle Diamond Mine produced more than 90% of the world's supply of rare pink diamonds, but less than 1% of the mine's total production was pink.

Source: <https://argylepinkdiamonds.com.au/mine/>

7. Professor Fiona Wood pioneered the use of WHAT to treat victims of the Bali Bombings in 2002, saving many lives?

ANSWER: Spray on Skin

Source: <https://www.fionawoodfoundation.org.au/fiona-wood>

8. Many people think of eucalyptus as the main smell of the Australian bush, but many native plants have other distinctive smells. Which of the following is NOT a plant with a real fragrance found in Australia?

- A) Anise myrtle, which smells like liquorice
- B) Duck orchids, which smell like roast duck on hot days
- C) Waxlip orchids, which smell like vanilla after rain
- D) This is a trick... they are all real!

ANSWER: B) Duck orchids that smell like roast duck

Bonus info: Duck orchids do exist, and they look a bit like ducks... but they don't smell like roast duck.

Source: <https://tuckerbush.com.au/aniseed-myrtle-syzygium-anisatum/>,
<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/321088-Caleana-major>, personal experience from
waxlip orchids.

9. Which stripy Australian mammal, believed to have gone extinct on the Australian mainland 2,000-3,000 years ago, is recorded in rock art in Kakadu in the Northern Territory and at the Burrup Peninsula in WA?

ANSWER: Thylacine, or Tasmanian Tiger

Source: <https://kakadu.gov.au/things-do/activities/rock-art/ubirr/>,
<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/backgroundbriefing/burrup-peninsula-rock-art-shows-extinct-megafauna/6561788>

10. The University of Queensland holds the Guinness World Record for the longest-running lab experiment, that measures the properties of the world's thickest known fluid. It began in 1927. It's called the 'WHAT drop experiment'?

ANSWER: Pitch

Bonus info: Pitch is a type of tar. While it may look solid, it's actually a fluid, but flows VERY slowly. As of 2026, only 9 drops of pitch have fallen so far!

Source: <https://smp.uq.edu.au/pitch-drop-experiment>

ROUND 2- SPORTY SCIENCE

1. What element are Olympic gold medals mostly made of?

ANSWER: Silver

Source: <https://archeenergy.com.au/what-are-olympic-medals-made-of/>

2. TRUE OR FALSE: An anaerobic activity (or exercise) relates to activity that needs oxygen?

ANSWER: False

Bonus info: Anaerobic activity doesn't require oxygen. Instead, muscles use stored energy sources like glycogen for fuel. Aerobic activity needs oxygen.

Source: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/aerobic-vs-anaerobic-exercises>

3. Across the Beijing, London, Rio and Tokyo Summer Olympic Games, which sport was found to have the highest rate of injuries?

- A. Taekwondo
- B. Hockey
- C. Equestrian
- D. BMX racing

ANSWER: D) BMX Racing

Bonus info: 34% of all BMX participants were injured! Thankfully, most of these injuries were relatively minor. Only 13% of the 1,361 injuries recorded across these Olympics resulted in an absence from training or competition for more than one week. The least injury-prone event is canoe slalom, with an average injury rate of just 1.2%.

Source: <https://www.opnews.com/2024/08/study-names-the-most-dangerous-sport-at-the-olympics/25599>

4. In 2009 FINA (the International Swimming Federation) banned LZR 'Supersuit' swimsuits specially designed to reduce drag. What animal's skin provided inspiration for these suits?

ANSWER: Sharks

Bonus info: Scientists have since found this pattern doesn't really behave like shark skin and help athletes... other aspects of the material the suits were made of were more important in helping swimmers be speedy.

Source: <https://www.popsci.com/technology/article/2012-07/speedos-super-fast-sharkskin-inspired-swimsuit-actually-nothing-sharks-skin/>

5. What year was the exercise tracking app Strava launched?

- A) 2007
- B) 2009
- C) 2011
- D) 2013

ANSWER: B) 2009

Source: <https://www.marketingexamined.com/blog/how-strava-grew-to-300m>

6. In which Football World Cup was VAR (Video Assistant Referee) first used?

- A) Germany (2006)
- B) South Africa (2010)
- C) Brazil (2014)
- D) Russia (2018)

ANSWER: D) Russia (2018)

Source: <https://analysisport.com/insights/what-is-var-video-assistant-referee/>

7. TRUE OR FALSE: Tennis balls at Wimbledon are stored at a specific temperature.

ANSWER: True

Source: https://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/news/articles/2015-07-01/a-day-in-the-life-a-championship-ball.html

8. Which sport was played on the Moon by astronaut Alan Shepard in 1971?

ANSWER: Golf

Source: <https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/space-missions/sport-moon-space>

9. In the context of exercise recovery, what does DOMS stand for?

ANSWER: Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness

Source: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12617692/>

10. What material are running blades, used by amputee athletes, usually made of?

ANSWER: Carbon Fibre

Bonus info: The strength of the blade comes from multiple layers of carbon fibre; at least thirty and as many as ninety sheets of carbon fibre are fused together. The more layers used make the blade stronger. Each layer is thinner than human hair.

Source: <https://www.paralympicheritage.org.uk/running-blades-and-their-evolution>

ROUND 3- SCIENCE IS ALL AROUND ME

1. What chemical is commonly used in both hair dyes and glow sticks?

ANSWER: Hydrogen peroxide

Source: <https://www.compoundchem.com/2014/09/30/hydrogenperoxide/>

2. Which kind of drink is usually the most acidic (has the lowest pH)?

- A) Coca-Cola Classic
- B) Orange juice
- C) Red wine
- D) Red Bull

ANSWER: A) Coca-Cola Classic

Source: <https://www.gvdental.com.au/sports-drinks-acid-teeth>,
<https://www.dentistryatwinbury.com/patient-information-2/follow-up-instructions/acidtyph-of-common-food-and-beverages/>,
<https://blog.homebrewing.org/ph-range-of-wine/>

3. Which letter of the alphabet describes the shape of valleys carved by glaciers?

ANSWER: U, 'U-shaped valleys'

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/ushapedvalleysfjordshangingvalleys.htm>

4. What is the name of both a part of the human brain, and (nearly) the Greek word for seahorse?

ANSWER: The hippocampus

Source: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/hippocampus>

5. Starting with N, cornflour slime, tomato sauce and blood are all examples of non-WHAT fluids?

ANSWER: Non-Newtonian fluids, non-Newtonian fluids change their viscosity (thickness) when a force is applied.

Source: <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/science/non-newtonian-fluid>

6. Which of the following would NOT help to make a Mentos and Coke fountain shoot more spectacularly?

- A) Heating up the Coke
- B) Using diet Coke rather than full-sugar Coke
- C) Roughing-up the surface of the Mentos

D) Using fruit-flavoured Mentos, rather than mint Mentos

ANSWER: D) Using fruit-flavoured Mentos

Source: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn14114-science-of-mentos-diet-coke-explosions-explained/>

7. What element is found at the heart of some stars, and is also essential for your red blood cells to function?

ANSWER: Iron

Source: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3258305/>

8. What does 'GPT' stand for in Chat GPT?

ANSWER: Generative Pre-Trained Transformer

Source: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/resources/cloud-computing-dictionary/what-is-gpt>

9. Which two planets in our solar system have no moons?

ANSWER: Mercury and Venus

Source: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/how-many-moons/en/>

10. Australia loves 'big things', from the Big Banana to the Big Merino. Which one of these science-themed 'big things' ISN'T found in Australia?

- A) The World's Largest Periodic Table
- B) The Big Slide Rule
- C) The Big Rubik's Cube
- D) The Big Calculator

ANSWER: D) The Big Calculator isn't real (yet)

Bonus info: You could also visit the World's Largest Periodic Table at Edith Cowan University in Perth, the Big Slide Rule at the University of Tasmania, or the Big Rubik's Cube in Maroubra.

Source: <https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/giant-periodic-table-four-times-larger-than-previous-record-holder/4010824.article>,
<https://heritage.tas.gov.au/Documents/THR12074%20Provisional%20entry%20Dataseet%20%26%20CPR.pdf>, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-16/maroubra-rubiks-cube-maroubrix-street-art-beaches-sydney/103237658>