

500 Questions Volume II - Set 21

1. Born a slave around 1797 in Ulster County, New York, she was freed and took a job as a domestic. In 1843, she felt she heard voices and left her employment to travel the countryside, preaching emancipation and women's rights. For 10 points, name this illiterate but effective speaker and reformer.

Answer: Sojourner Truth

2. The title character returns from a ten-year absence at the Trojan War to his home city of Mycenae with his captured slave, Cassandra. But instead of a warm greeting, his wife, Clytemnestra, kills him at the behest of her lover, Aegisthus. For 10 points, of what ancient tragedy by Aeschylus is this the general plot?

Answer: Agamemnon

3. They have no nervous system and their bodies are often supported by skeletons of lime or silica. For 10 points, what are these non-mobile, solitary members of the animal phylum porifera?

Answer: sponges

4. His autobiographical drama, After the Fall, caused a considerable controversy, partly because of the characterization of his second wife, Marilyn Monroe. His other plays include Incident at Vichy, View from the Bridge, and All My Sons. For 10 points, identify this author who created the character Willy Loman in his Death of a Salesman.

Answer: Arthur Miller

5. First sighted by Frances Drake in 1578, it was named by the Dutch navigators Le Maire and Schouten after an inlet on the Isselmeer. For 10 points, identify this cape at the southern extreme of South America.

Answer: Cape Horn

6. Duquesne won two of the first five and Miami lost two of the first three—not a very auspicious start to one of the nation's most prestigious college football bowl games. For 10 points, what is this bowl to which Duquesne has not been invited to in decades, and which Miami has frequently dominated in more recent years?

Answer: Orange Bowl

7. Born in 1930, this poet's collections include The Hawk in the Rain, Crow, and Cave Birds. In 1956 he met and married the American poet Sylvia Plath with whom he lived until her suicide in 1963. For 10 points, who is this British poet who succeeded Sir John Betjeman as Poet Laureate of England in 1984—the post he still holds?

Answer: Ted Hughes

8. One of the East Coast's most historic cities, its monuments include the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas. Founded in 1565 by the Spanish, it was attacked frequently by the French, English, and the colonists. For 10 points, name this Florida city, the oldest European settlement in the U.S.

Answer: St. Augustine, Florida

9. In his On factitious airs, English chemist Henry Cavendish announced his discovery of it and termed it "flammable air." An odd name for a substance that will burn quite readily in the presence of oxygen. For 10 points, identify this element whose explosive qualities were revealed when the Hindenburg exploded in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Answer: hydrogen

10. Written by James Thomson to the music of Thomas Augustine Arne, it was first performed before Frederick, Prince of Wales in 1740 as part of "The Masque of Alfred." For 10 points, identify this British national song that begins "When Britain first at Heaven's command / Arose from the azure main."

Answer: Rule, Britannia!

11. As a psychologist, this American thinker founded the first psychological laboratory in the United States at Harvard in 1876. For 10 points, who was this American thinker who also promulgated the philosophies of pluralism and pragmatism, and whose brother, Henry, was a famous novelist?

Answer: William James

12. Following the death of his wife in 1504, he was opposed by Joanna the Mad and her husband Philip for control of Castile. He eventually regained control and ruled both Castile and Aragon from 1506 to 1516. For 10 points, identify this man who is best remembered for financing Christopher Columbus' expeditions to the New World.

Answer: Ferdinand II

13. They were a haven for criminals in the late nineteenth century, and when under French ownership, they were known as the Mauvaises Terres. Marked by steep hills and deep gullies, for 10 points, what is this barren region near the Black Hills of southwestern South Dakota and northwestern Nebraska?

Answer: the Badlands

14. This film won the first prize, the Golden Bear, at the Berlin Film Festival in 1951. Featuring an affable dog named Bruno, a pampered cat named Lucifer, and the mice Gus and Jaques, what was this first attempt by Walt Disney to translate a fairy tale into a full-length animated feature, and which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary?

Answer: "Cinderella"

15. It begins, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." For 10 points, what is the New Testament book, separated from the Synoptic gospels, which was written by the apostle Jesus loved?

Answer: John

16. In 1860, he wrote a campaign biography of Abraham Lincoln, which won him the consulate at Venice. In 1872, he wrote his first novel, Their Wedding Journey, which was followed by A Chance Acquaintance. For 10 points, identify this editor-in-chief of The Atlantic Monthly whose best known novel is The Rise of Silas Lapham.

Answer: William Dean Howells

17. Elected to the U.S. Senate from Missouri in 1934, he almost decided not to seek a second term. However, when President Roosevelt offered him a Federal post to drop out of the race, he was insulted and fought hard to retain his seat. By 1944, he was in FDR's favor and was elected as his third vice-president. For 10 points, name this man who followed Franklin Roosevelt as President.

Answer: Harry S. Truman

18. Pencil and paper may be necessary. Gauss came up with this number within minutes--as an elementary school student! Can you do it in seconds? For 10 points, what is the sum of the integers from one to one hundred, inclusive?

Answer: 5050 [use the formula $n(n+1)/2$]

19. With words by Ira Gershwin and music by George Gershwin, it was introduced in the show "Girl Crazy" in 1930 by Ethel Merman. It was so popular, in fact, that the Gershwins brought it back in "An American in Paris" in which it was sung by Gene Kelly. For 10 points, what is this song for which extols the possession of both "my girl" and the ability to discern the duration of tones and the stresses or accents placed upon them?

Answer: "I Got Rhythm"

20. Born in 1828, by age 23 he had been appointed official playwright of the new National Theatre at Bergen. His lesser known plays included Rosmersholm, Pillars of Society, An Enemy of the People, and Ghosts. For 10 points, who was this Norwegian playwright of Hedda Gabler and A Doll's House?

Answer: Henryk Ibsen