

500 Questions Volume II - Set 23

1. In 1796, J.T. Lowitz was the first to prepare this substance in its pure form. Today much of it is produced and then has impurities added to it deliberately to "denature" it. Why? To keep people from drinking it. For 10 points, identify this alcohol found in beverages usually restricted to those over 21.

Answer: ethanol or ethyl alcohol or grain alcohol

2. Jim Burden arrives as a child in Black Hawk, Nebraska where he grows up on a farm near the Shimerdas, another pioneer family. After attending Harvard, he returns to find that the eldest daughter of the Shimerdas has become the driving force behind a large family. For 10 points, identify the 1918 Willa Cather work of which this is a brief summary.

Answer: My Antonia

3. Held at a Crimean resort in February, 1945, some historians have contended it was the scene of a sick and weak Franklin Roosevelt being manipulated by Josef Stalin. For 10 points, name this Allied summit at which the Soviet Union secured its desired hegemony over Eastern Europe.

Answer: Yalta Conference

4. This sub-class of Mammalia comprises two orders: Metatheria and Didelphia. Members are born in a highly undeveloped state, and then develop in the pouch of their mothers from which the sub-class derives its name. For 10 points, what is this sub-class which includes opossums and kangaroos?

Answer: Marsupialia, or Marsupials

5. Only three times have the Olympic Games been held in Asia, the Summer Games in Seoul, South Korea in 1988, the Summer Games in Yokyo, Japan in 1964, and the Winter Olympics in this town in 1972. For 10 points, what is this mountainous Japanese town away from which the United States took three gold medals?

Answer: Sapporo

6. It was adapted for the stage and opened in West End in 1952--and has yet to close, making it the longest-running play of the British theatre. For 10 points, what is this mystery thriller by Dame Agatha Christie?

Answer: The Mousetrap

7. He was born near Bergamo, Italy in 1881 with the name Angelo Guiseppi Roncalli. In 1925, he became titular Archbishop of Bulgaria and from 1935 to 1945 he served as papal Nuncio to Greece, Turkey, and France consecutively. For 10 points, identify this man who when elected pope in 1958, adopted the name most used by popes.

Answer: John XXIII

8. It is a region in East Coconino County, Arizona, just to the east of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers. For 10 points, what is this iridescent region in which erosion has worn away much of the sand, exposing many-colored rock surfaces?

Answer: Painted Desert

9. Its predecessor was the somewhat milder cha-cha and it is a dance in 4/4 time first performed to quadrille music. Usually performed by four women, for 10 points, what is this dance of French origin known for its high kicks that expose the petticoat and leg?

Answer: the cancan

10. In April of 1950, the US Post Office issued a stamp bearing his name and likeness. For 10 points, who was this man who, 50 years earlier, had died at the throttle of the crashing Cannonball, saving all of the passengers?

Answer: Casey Jones

11. Pencil and paper may be necessary. Consider the equation $y = x^3 + 4x^2 + 17x - 23$. For 10 points, what is the second derivative of y with respect to x of this equation?

Answer: $6x + 8$

12. Born in 1932 in Boston she attended Smith College and in 1956 went to Newman College, Cambridge on a Fulbright Fellowship where she met and married her now famous husband. For 10 points, identify this author whose works include Three Women, The Colossus, and her single novel, The Bell Jar.

Answer: Sylvia Plath

13. If a star's mass is greater than the Chandrasekhar Limit, that is about 1.5 times that of our sun, it can never evolve into one of these. Actually any color, depending on their color temperature, what are these stars whose mass is only one percent that of the Sun, and whose luminosity is 10,000 times less?

Answer: white dwarf

14. It was written between 58 and 44 B.C. and is treasured today for its concise Latin and historical accuracy. For 10 points, what is this historical work written by Julius Caesar which begins "All Gaul is divided into three parts"?

Answer: Commentaries on the Gallic War

15. It was established in 1894 and is a non-profit organization which tests the safety of consumer products and endorses them when deemed safe. For 10 points, what is this organization which confers its "UL Listing"?

Answer: Underwriters Laboratory

16. It was the setting of many paintings of the Renaissance and was the town where Jesus miraculously provided a wedding party with wine for its feast. For 10 points, what was this small town, the site of Christ's first miracle?

Answer: Cana

17. It contains the nominally "independent regions" of Bophutatswana, Lesotho, Transkei, Venda, and Swaziland. For 10 points, identify this African nation, the only one with coasts on the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Answer: South Africa

18. This U.S. Senator served from 1851 to 1874 and was a champion of the abolitionist cause, in particular opposing the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He called its author, Stephen Douglas, a "noisome squat and nameless animal." For 10 points, identify this Massachusetts Senator and leader of the Radical Republicans.

Answer: Charles Sumner

19. She sent a bull to wrestle the Babylonian hero Gilgamesh, and alternately beleaguered and was benevolent to him. For 10 points, who was this Earth Mother and principal fertility deity of Mesopotamia, after whom a forgettable Warren Beatty-Dustin Hoffman movie was named?

Answer: Ishtar

20. You sometimes have to look close to see him in films of the early eighties. For instance, he played Pink's road manager in "Pink Floyd's The Wall" and he was the air conditioning repairman, Spoor, in "Brazil". For 10 points, who is this ordinary-looking British actor who scored a critical coup and Oscar nomination for "Mona Lisa" in 1986, a box office blockbuster with "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" in 1988, and who opened 1990 with a forgettable cop-pal flick, "Heart Condition", with Denzel Washington?

Answer: Bob Hoskins