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# INTRODUCTION

BY JOE FULLMAN

Welcome to the big, wide world of quizzing. This book is billed as a ‘travel’ quiz, but really it’s an ‘everything’ quiz. After all, travel is about experiencing all the world has to offer, so we’ve tried to cram as much of the planet into these pages as we can. You’ll be tested on everything from capitals to currencies, tallest buildings to longest rivers, national dishes to international airports, ancient empires to modern art galleries, the deepest lakes to the biggest oceans, and even outer space – perhaps the greatest travel adventure of all.

## How it Works

There are 100 quizzes in all, most of which have 20 questions (some a little over, some a little under), amounting to a grand total of just over 2000 (2017 to be precise, which is always a valuable trait for quizzes). The majority are general knowledge, covering a wide selection of topics and regions – the whole planet is represented. We’ve also included a few themed rounds to test your expertise of a particular subject, including books, museums, film locations, landmarks, sports venues, wildlife and more.

Most questions require just a single answer, but there are a few multi-parters here and there, often the final question in a round. Some are multiple choice, so you can at least have a go even if you haven’t got a clue. Be sure to read the options carefully – there’s usually one that couldn’t possibly be right, improving your chances to a 50-50 shot.

But a quick word of warning before you get too confident: things get more testing as you go on. The book is split into three chapters:

**Day-Tripper:** A gentle introduction to the world of travel quizzing – expect to get 15–20 of these ones right.

**Traveller:** A bit more challenging – your average will probably be lowered to around the 10–15 mark.

**Explorer:** Taking it up another notch, these questions are occasionally downright fiendish. If you get half of these right, you’re doing pretty well.

Of course, the more help you get, the better you’re likely to do. That’s one of the great things about quizzing; it can be enjoyed both as a solo activity – methodically working your way through the questions – and with friends and family. And there really is no sense of satisfaction quite as smug as besting your loved ones in a quiz.

But there’s no need to despair if you don’t know an answer. Quizzing isn’t just about recalling knowledge, it’s about learning new stuff. The phrase ‘Oh, I didn’t know that’ shouldn’t be an admission of defeat so much as a statement of conquest because now you do, allowing you to squirrel that fact away for next time. It helps that there are some wonderful stories behind many of the answers (which is why they occasionally take the form of mini essays), such as why Vegemite changed its name to... well you’ll find out in Quiz 78 if you don’t know already, or why a bikini is called a bikini (Quiz 36) or what world-famous landmark the notorious conman Victor Lustig managed to sell to unsuspecting buyers, twice (Quiz 56).

A good question is often a prompt for further discussion and enquiry, sending you off on little research trips, diving down Wikipedia wormholes, helping you to hone and improve your quizzing game.

These days quizzing is a truly global phenomenon. The pub quiz, once a peculiarly British endeavour, in which groups of friends gather once a week to pool their collective wisdom in return for a meagre (or more often no) prize – has now caught on in Australia, New Zealand and parts of the US. In Britain, where pubs are closing at alarming rate, it’s often all that’s keeping them afloat. And TV quiz shows are enjoyed all over the world, with a new one seemingly appearing each week. The combination of a test of someone’s knowledge of trivia with the possibility of winning a life-changing financial reward seems to have a near universal appeal. *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*, one of the big daddies of the genre, has had versions produced in more than one hundred countries, from Venezuela to the Philippines, India to Australia.

So, we’ve established that this is a quiz about the world, and that the world, in general, is a great fan of quizzing, but what country or culture was it that gave us the concept of the quiz? Unfortunately, that’s not a question we could include in this book, as none of the standard authorities are sure. The Oxford English Dictionary marks the origin of the word as ‘unknown’, although it does acknowledge the best and most widely known story which is, as is so often the case, the one least likely to be true. It relates that in 1791, a man called Richard Daly, the manager of a Dublin theatre, bet his friends a considerable sum of money that he could, within just 48 hours, get a new, completely made-up word into the vocabulary of the city’s inhabitants. To do this, he employed the workers at his theatre to go out into the

## Quiz 70 General Knowledge

1. Roughly, what proportion of the world's population lives in the northern hemisphere?  
A) 48% B) 68% C) 88%
2. The Ponte Vecchio is a famous bridge in which Italian city?  
A) Rome B) Florence C) Turin
3. Consisting of a slight bow, performed with the palms pressed together, the *wai* is a traditional greeting (or farewell) in which Asian country?
4. In what European city did the writer Mary Shelley first conceive of the story for her novel *Frankenstein*?  
A) Paris B) Rome C) Geneva
5. In 2018, the African country of Swaziland changed its official name to what?  
A) The Kingdom of Eswatini  
B) The Gold Coast C) South East Africa
6. The 16th-century artist Doménikos Theotokópoulos is better known by which name, a reference to his place of birth?  
A) Franco B) Amerigo C) El Greco
7. *Ghormeh sabzi*, *zereshk polo* and *faloodeh* are all dishes from which Middle Eastern country?
8. Tripoli is the capital of which North African country?
9. Which country's coat of arms (and football shirts) features a red-and-white chequerboard pattern?
10. In what Southeast Asian city could you see the Emerald Buddha?
11. The merengue is a music and dance that originated in which Caribbean country?
12. The Golden Boy of Pye Corner is a small gilded statue in London that commemorates the end of what event of 1666?
13. How tall is the Vaalserberg, the highest point in the otherwise rather low country of the Netherlands?  
A) 32.4 m (106 ft) B) 322.4 m (1058 ft)  
C) 3224 m (10,577 ft)
14. The novelist Mario Vargas Llosa is from what South American country?
15. The private house known as Fallingwater, built over a waterfall in rural Pennsylvania, was the work of which renowned 20th-century US architect?
16. Can you name the three museums in the South Kensington district of London that were established in the wake of (and largely with funds from) the Great Exhibition of 1851?
17. Pohutukawa trees, also known as Christmas trees (because of their bright red flowers) and iron trees, are found in what country?  
A) South Africa B) Japan C) New Zealand
18. During the twice yearly equinoxes, a shadow is cast on the steps of the pyramid at Chichén Itzá resembling what animal?  
A) A snake B) A bird C) A cat
19. Found in the rainforests of Sumatra, what is a *Rafflesia arnoldii*?  
A) A plant that produces the world's largest flower  
B) A plant that produces the world's smallest flower  
C) A bird that looks like a flower
20. Can you name the original 13 colonies that formed the United States of America? You get a point for each.

# Chapter 2

# Answers

## Quiz 73 General Knowledge

- What are the two languages of government in India? And, for a bonus point, how many official languages are there in India?
- The name of which South American country is derived from the Latin word for silver?
- What was the name of the treaty that officially ended the First World War?
- What is the mistral?  
A) A lighthouse B) A wind C) A desert
- What is the brightest star in the night sky?
- The eruption of which Indonesian volcano in 1815 is believed to be the most destructive in recorded history?
- The north face of which Swiss mountain is considered so dangerous to climb that it has been given the German nickname Mordwand (meaning 'murder wall').
- The kakapo is an extremely rare species of flightless parrot from which country?
- Windhoek is the capital of which southern African country?
- In what year did India gain independence from the United Kingdom?  
A) 1907 B) 1947 C) 1967
- The island nation of Trinidad and Tobago lies off the coast of which South American country?
- Who was the first German to win the men's singles tennis title at Wimbledon?
- Today, the former city of Tsaritsyn is known as Volgograd, but by what name was it known between 1925 and 1961?
- Mr Chicken was the last private resident of which famous London address?
- Mines in the state of South Australia, particularly those around the town of Coober Pedy, are the source of over 80% of the world's supply of which gemstone?
- In 1946, which country's leader issued a statement renouncing his divinity?
- Born in England around 1680 and killed off the coast of North Carolina in 1718, following a life spent at largely sea, Edward Teach is better known to history as who?
- Espirito Santo is a state in which South American country?
- In what country would you see goat-filled argan trees, such as this one?



20. Match the country to the national dish. You get a point for each.
- Countries: A) Austria B) Albania  
C) Barbados D) Canada E) Ethiopia  
F) Finland G) France H) Georgia I) Jamaica  
J) Lebanon K) Peru L) South Korea

*National dishes:* kimchi, kibbeh, khachapuri, karjalanpaisti, poutine, tavë kosi, Wiener schnitzel, cou-cou and flying fish, injera, pot-au-feu, ackee and saltfish, ceviche

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## Quiz 74 Capital Cities

- What West African capital is named after a 19th-century US president?
- Which European capital was renovated and rebuilt by Baron Haussmann in the 1860s, resulting in the creation of several large new boulevards?  
A) Berlin, Germany B) Paris, France  
C) Brussels, Belgium
- Founded in 1960, what capital's buildings were mostly designed by Oscar Niemeyer?
- Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, lies directly across the Congo River from which city, the capital of the Republic of Congo?
- If the capital cities of all the world's countries were listed alphabetically, which would come first?
- And which would come last?
- Marrakesh and Casablanca are probably Morocco's most famous cities, but neither is the capital. What is?
- Which European capital provided the setting for the 1995 film *Before Sunrise*, starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy?
- What is the highest capital city in the world?
- And what is lowest capital city in the world?
- What European country doesn't officially have a capital according to its constitution? For a bonus point, what city acts as its seat of government?
- What is the capital of Uzbekistan?
- Juba is the capital of which recently established country?
- The name of which European capital translates as 'black pool' in the country's original language?  
A) Bucharest, Romania B) Athens, Greece  
C) Dublin, Ireland
- Which European capital city is home to the world's oldest zoo?  
A) London B) Paris C) Vienna
- What Asian capital city is home to the Shinjuku area, famed for its high concentration of skyscrapers?
- Bamako is the capital of which African country?  
A) Mali B) Niger C) Burkina Faso
- What two cities merged to form a new city in 1873, now the capital of an Eastern European country?
- What southern hemisphere capital city is this?  
A) Canberra, Australia B) Wellington, New Zealand C) Buenos Aires, Argentina



20. The River Danube flows through four capital cities. Can you name them? You get a point for each.

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## Answers

in Sudan, where the Nubian civilisations of Kerma, Napata and Meroe flourished alongside the Nile at much the same time as (and often interacting with) the Egyptians, from around 2600 BCE to 330 CE.

**10.** Northwest (check it on a map if you don't believe it).

**11.** Glasgow. Although the film is set in Edinburgh, it was actually filmed almost entirely in Glasgow.

**12.** Eight: Noah himself along with his wife and their three sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth) plus their three wives. None of the wives' names are mentioned in the Bible.

**13.** C) 116 years, from 1337 to 1453. The war was actually a series of conflicts between England and France over French territorial possessions.

**14.** B) France. The company was founded by an Italian, Ettore Bugatti, in 1908, but the company has always been based in the town of Molsheim, which was once in Germany, and is now part of France.

**15.** C) Chimborazo, in Ecuador. Although *just* 6,263 m-high (20,549 ft), it lies very close to the Equator where the Earth bulges, meaning it lies further from the core than the other two.

**16.** November, by modern calculations. At that time, Russia was still using the old Julian calendar. It didn't switch to the Gregorian calendar being used by most of the rest of the world until after the revolution.

**17.** Lego. According to the latest available figures, Lego produces

over 300 million tyres a year, compared with under 200 million by its main rivals, Bridgestone and Michelin. Obviously, the tyres are a lot smaller.

**18.** Bright orange – to make it easier to spot in a crash site.

'Black box' is just a colloquialism.

**19.** Paul von Hindenberg. Hitler was appointed chancellor early in 1933, and later appointed himself Führer but was never officially president of Germany.

**20.** 12. The number never changes, regardless of how many countries are currently in the Union.