

To make cards:

Print on one side of paper or card stock. (These are designed for metric A4 paper; on U.S. paper you may need to reduce to fit, and trim off extra.)

Cut on the lines: one cut down the middle, then twice across.

Fold each piece in the middle so someone can read the question without seeing the answer.

You may want to use glue or tape to keep them from opening up.

How to play: See last page of this PDF.

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Questions

___ was invented in China. When?

1. Fingernail polish
2. Porcelain (white ceramic)
3. Rockets
4. Seismometer, to detect earthquakes and show where they happened
5. Soy sauce
6. Electronic cigarette

Answers

1. Fingernail polish: 3000 BCE
2. Porcelain: 700-1000
3. Rockets: 1200-1250
4. Seismometer: 132
5. Soy sauce: 200 BCE
6. Electronic cigarette: 2003.

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Questions

"The" is the #1 most common word in English (written and spoken). #10 is "it". What is the rank of:

1. this
2. if
3. day
4. up
5. after
6. great

Answers

1. this: 20-25
2. if: 40-55
3. day: 80-90
4. up: 50-55
5. after: 80-120
6. great: 110-160

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Questions

How big is ___ (square kilometers)

1. Laos
2. Russia
3. Thailand
4. Vietnam
5. China
6. United States

Answers

1. Laos: 236,800 km²
2. Russia: 17,000,000 km²
3. Thailand: 510,000 km²
4. Vietnam: 330,000 km²
5. China: 9,600,000 km²
6. United States: 9,800,000 km²

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Questions

___ was invented in China. When?

1. Paper
2. Gunpowder
3. Fireworks
4. Compass, for travel
5. Kites
6. Matches

Answers

1. Paper: 100 BCE - 100 CE
2. Gunpowder: 800-1040
3. Fireworks: 1000-1200
4. Compass: 1000-1100
5. Kites: 800 BCE-400 BCE
6. Matches: 577

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Questions

How big is ___ (square kilometers)

1. Mexico
2. Australia
3. Switzerland
4. South Korea
5. Bangladesh
6. Spain

Answers

1. Mexico : 2,000,000 km²
2. Australia : 7,700,000 km²
3. Switzerland : 41,000 km²
4. South Korea : 100,000 km²
5. Bangladesh : 140,000 km²
6. Spain : 510,000 km²

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Questions

How high above sea level is the highest point in:

1. Brazil
2. Japan
3. Netherlands
4. Australia
5. Switzerland
6. Peru

Answers

1. Brazil : 2,995 m.
2. Japan : 3,776 m.
3. Netherlands : 322 m.
4. Australia : 2,228 m.
5. Switzerland : 4,634 m.
6. Peru : 6,768 m.

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Questions

How many countries have ___ living outside of a zoo?

1. tigers
2. kangaroos
3. giraffes
4. pandas
5. lions
6. elephants

Answers

1. tigers: 8-12
2. kangaroos: 1-2
3. giraffes: 21
4. pandas: 1
5. lions: 24-27
6. elephants: 30-32

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Questions

How long is the ___ river in ___? (kilometers)

1. Mekong, Southeast Asia
2. Nile, Africa
3. Amazon, South America
4. Congo, Africa
5. Irrawaddy, China and Myanmar
6. Nam Ou, Laos

Answers

1. Mekong, Southeast Asia: 4200-4300
2. Nile, Africa: 6650-7100
3. Amazon, South America: 6400-6600
4. Congo, Africa: 4700
5. Irrawaddy, China and Myanmar: 2800-2850
6. Nam Ou, Laos: 380-450

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Questions

How many countries have a flag with:

1. exactly one 5-pointed star
2. a star and a crescent moon
3. the colors blue red white and no others
4. No white color at all
5. 1 or more stars which do not have 5 points
6. 3 stripes (horizontal or vertical) and nothing else

Answers

1. one 5-pointed star: 31
2. a star and a crescent moon: 7-8
3. only blue red and white: 20-21
4. no white: 51-52
5. 1 or more stars which do not have 5 points: 8
6. 3 stripes (horizontal or vertical) and nothing else: 27

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Questions

How many countries are entirely lower than ___ meters

1. 100
2. 200
3. 400
4. 1000
5. 2000
6. 3000

Answers

1. 100: 7
2. 200: 12
3. 400: 22
4. 1000: 41
5. 2000: 77
6. 3000: 128

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Questions

How many countries have a flag with:

1. colors red, yellow, green, and no others.
2. only 2 colors (white is considered a color here)
3. more than 4 sides
4. 1 big circle, nothing else
5. more than one star
6. a picture of people or a person

Answers

1. colors red, yellow, green, and no others: 11
2. only 2 colors: 36
3. more than 4 sides: 1
4. 1 big circle, nothing else: 3
5. more than one star: 28-29
6. picture of people or person: 1

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Questions

How many countries have a population bigger than:

1. 500 million
2. 200 million
3. 100 million
4. 30 million
5. 10 million
6. 2 million

Answers

1. 500 million: 2
2. 200 million: 7
3. 100 million: 15
4. 30 million: 50
5. 10 million: 96
6. 2 million: 146

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Questions

How many countries have an area bigger than ___ square kilometers?

1. 6 million
2. 2 million
3. 500,000
4. 200,000
5. 100,000
6. 50,000

Answers

1. 6 million: 6
2. 2 million: 12
3. 500,000: 50
4. 200,000: 84
5. 100,000: 106
6. 50,000: 126

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Questions

Of 195 countries, how many have a population density higher than that in:

1. Mexico
2. Australia
3. United States
4. Russia
5. Canada
6. Brazil

Answers

1. Mexico: 118
2. Australia: 186
3. United States: 144
4. Russia: 183
5. Canada: 187
6. Brazil: 159

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Questions

How many countries have an area smaller than ___ square kilometers?

1. 1,000
2. 4,000
3. 15,000
4. 60,000
5. 250,000
6. 1 million

Answers

1. 1,000: 23-24
2. 4,000: 28
3. 15,000: 41
4. 60,000: 72
5. 250,000: 118
6. 1 million: 165

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Questions

How many countries have a population smaller than

1. 100,000
2. 500,000
3. 1 million
4. 5 million
6. 20 million

Answers

1. 100,000: 11
2. 500,000: 26
3. 1 million: 37
4. 5 million: 72-73
6. 20 million: 130-134

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Questions

How many countries have mountains higher than ___ meters.

1. 8,000
2. 7,000
3. 6,000
4. 5,000
5. 3,000
6. 2,000

Answers

1. 8,000: 4
2. 7,000: 9
3. 6,000: 15
4. 5,000: 27
5. 3,000: 66
6. 2,000: 117

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Questions

How many countries share a land border with:

1. India
2. China
3. Laos
4. Russia
5. Japan
6. Thailand

Answers

1. India : 6
2. China : 14
3. Laos : 5
4. Russia : 14
5. Japan : 0
6. Thailand : 4

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Questions

How many people in the world speak ___ as their home language? (million)

1. Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese, all dialects)
2. French
3. Vietnamese
4. Spanish
5. Arabic (many varieties)
6. English

Answers

1. Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese, all dialects): 1,300
2. French: 74
3. Vietnamese: 85
4. Spanish: 486
5. Arabic (many varieties): 350
6. English: 380

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Questions

How many countries share a land border with exactly ___ other countries?

1. 10
2. 5
3. 7
4. 8
5. 14
6. 2

Answers

1. 10: 1
2. 5: 26
3. 7: 10
4. 8: 6
5. 14: 2
6. 2: 27

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Questions

In what year did ___ become independent from ___?

1. India from Britain
2. Singapore from Malaysia
3. Timor from Portugal
4. Timor from Indonesia
5. United States from England
6. Laos from France

Answers

1. India from Britain: 1947
2. Singapore from Malaysia: 1965
3. Timor from Portugal: 1975
4. Timor from Indonesia: 2002
5. United States from England: 1776-1783
6. Laos from France: 1949-1953

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Questions

How many people in the world are of the religion:

1. Buddhist
2. Muslim
3. Traditional spirit worship (many varieties)
4. Christian
5. Hindu
6. No religion

Answers

1. Buddhist: 500-520 million
2. Muslim: 1.8 million - 2 billion
3. Traditional spirit worship: 800 million - 1.2 billion
4. Christian: 2.3-2.5 billion
5. Hindu: 1.1-1.3 billion
6. No religion: 1.1-1.5 billion

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Questions

In what year did ___ become independent from ___?

1. Algeria from France
2. Indonesia from Netherlands
3. Israel from Britain
4. Ukraine from Russia
5. Cambodia from France
6. Haiti from France

Answers

1. Algeria from France: 1962
2. Indonesia from Netherlands: 1945
3. Israel from Britain: 1948
4. Ukraine from Russia: 1991
5. Cambodia from France: 1953
6. Haiti from France: 1804

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Questions

In what year did ___ join the United Nations?

1. Australia
2. Brazil
3. Cambodia
4. France
5. Germany
6. Italy

Answers

1. Australia: 1945
2. Brazil: 1945
3. Cambodia: 1955
4. France: 1945
5. Germany (with dual membership for both East and West Germany): 1973
6. Italy: 1955

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Questions

Multiply these two numbers. You will have 10 seconds. When I say STOP you must raise both hands.

1. 33×200
2. 500×8
3. 200×49
4. 700×68
5. 76×44
6. 92×150

Answers

1. 33×200 : 6,600
2. 500×8 : 4,000
3. 200×49 : 9,800
4. 700×68 : 47,600
5. 76×44 : 3,344
6. 92×150 : 13,800

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Questions

In what year was ___ born?

1. Ho Chi Minh
2. Ronaldo
3. Michael Jackson
4. Steve Jobs
5. Barack Obama
6. Big Brother Mouse

Answers

1. Ho Chi Minh: 1890
2. Ronaldo: 1985
3. Michael Jackson: 1958
4. Steve Jobs: 1955
5. Barack Obama: 1961
6. Big Brother Mouse: 2006

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Questions

Ten countries are a member of ASEAN. How many are a member of ___ (in 2025)

1. United Nations
2. African Union
3. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
4. European Union
5. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
6. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Answers

1. United Nations: 193
2. African Union: 55
3. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): 21
4. European Union: 27
5. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): 32
6. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): 38

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Questions

It is noon in Laos. What time is it in:

1. Iceland
2. Peru (South America)
3. South Africa
4. Japan
5. Finland
6. Moscow (Russia)

Answers

1. Iceland: 5:00 a.m.
2. Peru (South America): 12:00 midnight
3. South Africa: 7:00 a.m.
4. Japan: 2:00 p.m.
5. Finland: 7:00 a.m.
6. Moscow (Russia): 8:00 a.m.

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Questions

What is the coldest temperature ever recorded in:

1. Vietnam
2. Germany
3. France
4. Canada
5. United States
6. Brazil

Answers

1. Vietnam: -6
2. Germany: -46
3. France: -41
4. Canada: -63
5. United States: -62
6. Brazil: -14

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Answers

Questions

What is the distance, in a straight line from: (kilometers)

1. Vientiane to Sydney
2. Vientiane to Cairo, Egypt
3. Vientiane to Paris
4. Vientiane to New York
5. Vientiane to Moscow
6. Vientiane to Jakarta, Indonesia

1. Vientiane to Sydney: 7726
2. Vientiane to Cairo, Egypt: 7264
3. Vientiane to Paris: 9236
4. Vientiane to New York: 13481
5. Vientiane to Moscow: 6809
6. Vientiane to Jakarta, Indonesia: 2723

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Answers

Questions

What is the latitude of:

1. Jakarta, Indonesia
2. London, England
3. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
4. Paris, France
5. Singapore
6. Sydney, Australia

1. Jakarta: 6S
2. London, England: 52N
3. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: 23S
4. Paris, France: 49N
5. Singapore: 1N
6. Sydney, Australia: 34S

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Questions

What is the fastest that anyone has ever run:

1. 100 meters
2. 400 meters
3. 1 kilometer
4. 5 kilometers
5. 21.1 (half marathon) kilometers
6. 100 kilometers

Answers

1. 100 meters: 9.58
2. 400 meters: 43
3. 1 kilometer: 2:11
4. 5 kilometers: 12:35
5. 21.1 kilometers: 57:31
6. 100 kilometers: 6:05:35

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Questions

What is the longitude of:

1. Vientiane
2. Bangkok
3. Beijing
4. Cairo, Egypt
5. Cape Town, South Africa
6. Tokyo

Answers

1. Vientiane: 103E
2. Bangkok: 100E
3. Beijing: 116E
4. Cairo, Egypt: 31E
5. Cape Town, South Africa: 18E
6. Tokyo: 140E

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Questions

What is the hottest temperature ever recorded in:

1. Egypt
2. South Africa
3. Antarctica (continent)
4. Cambodia
5. China
6. Indonesia

Answers

1. Egypt: 51
2. South Africa: 50
3. Antarctica (continent): 20
4. Cambodia: 43
5. China: 52
6. Indonesia: 41

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Questions

What is the median age (half the people are older, half are younger) in:

1. Vietnam
2. France
3. India
4. Germany
5. East Timor
6. Egypt

Answers

1. Vietnam : 31.9 years
2. France : 41.7 years
3. India : 28.7 years
4. Germany : 47.8 years
5. East Timor : 19.6 years
6. Egypt : 24.1 years

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Questions

What is the population density (average number of people per square kilometer) of:

1. Russia
2. India
3. Japan
4. China
5. Pakistan
6. Iceland

Answers

1. Russia : 9
2. India : 412
3. Japan : 334
4. China : 145
5. Pakistan : 271
6. Iceland : 3.5

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Answers

1. High jump: 2.45 meters
2. Long jump: 8.95 meters
3. Pole vault: 6.25 meters
4. Shot put: 23.56 meters
5. Javelin throw: 98.5 meters
6. Distance run in 1 hour: 21.3 kilometers

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Questions

What is the population of:

1. Laos
2. Russia
3. Thailand
4. Vietnam
5. China
6. United States

Answers

1. Laos : 7.6 million
2. Russia : 140 million
3. Thailand : 72 million
4. Vietnam : 99 million
5. China : 1.4 billion
6. United States : 330 million

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Answers

1. Run a marathon (42.2 km): 2:00:35
2. Run 10 kilometers: 26:11
3. Walk 5 kilometers: 18:21
4. Walk 10 kilometers: 37:11
5. Walk 20 kilometers: 1:17
6. Walk 50 kilometers: 3:33

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Questions

What is the population of:

1. Mexico
2. Australia
3. Switzerland
4. South Korea
5. Bangladesh
6. Spain

Answers

1. Mexico : 130 million
2. Australia : 26 million
3. Switzerland : 8.8 million
4. South Korea : 52 million
5. Bangladesh : 170 million
6. Spain : 48 million

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Questions

What is the world record for:

1. High jump
2. Long jump
3. Pole vault
4. Shot put (throw a 7.3 kilogram ball)
5. Javelin throw
6. Distance run in 1 hour

Questions

What is the world record for:

1. Run a marathon (42.2 km)
2. Run 10 kilometers
3. Walk 5 kilometers
4. Walk 10 kilometers
5. Walk 20 kilometers
6. Walk 50 kilometers

Answers

1. Saudi Arabia: 0.5%
2. Iran: 7%
3. Belgium: 23%
4. Russia: 50%
5. Japan: 68% (yes, 68%)
6. Netherlands: 11%

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Questions

What percentage of __ is covered by forest?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iran
3. Belgium
4. Russia
5. Japan
6. Netherlands

Questions

What is the oldest age ever known to be reached by a ___?

1. Human
2. Dog
3. Cat
4. Bird
5. Elephant
6. Horse

Answers

1. Human: 122
2. Dog: 29
3. Cat: 38
4. Bird: 120
5. Elephant: 89
6. Horse: 62

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Questions

When was the first ___ invented?

1. Microscope
2. Telescope
3. Hot air balloon
4. Toy steam engine (it did not do useful work)
5. Steam engine, as a useful machine
6. Electric battery

Answers

1. Microscope: 1590
2. Telescope: 1608
3. Hot air balloon: 1783
4. Toy steam engine (it did not do useful work): 30 BCE - 15 BCE
5. Steam engine, as a useful machine: 1698-1712
6. Electric battery: 1800

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Questions

What is the oldest age ever known to be reached by a ___?

1. Sea animal
2. Land animal
3. Tree
4. Snake
5. Rabbit
6. Tiger

Answers

1. Sea animal: 207 (a clam)
2. Land animal: 255 (tortoise)
3. Tree: 4900
4. Snake: 40
5. Rabbit: 18
6. Tiger: 25

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Questions

When was the first ___ invented?

1. Camera
2. Telegraph
3. iPhone
4. Plastic
5. X-Ray
6. Airplane

Answers

1. Camera: 1837
2. Telegraph: 1832-1844
3. iPhone: 2007
4. Plastic: 1869
5. X-Ray: 1895
6. Airplane: 1903

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Questions

When did these ideas first appear?

1. Alphabet
2. Maps. 3800 BCE-2400 BCE
3. Abacus
4. Printing
5. Germ theory - that things too small to see can make you sick
6. Coins, as money

Answers

1. Alphabet: 2000 BCE-1000 BCE
2. Maps. 3800 BCE-2400 BCE
3. Abacus: 2000 BCE - 1000 BCE
4. Printing: 400-500
5. Germ theory: 1865-1870
6. Coins, as money: 700 BCE

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Questions

How many countries have a population bigger than the country ___

1. Russia
2. Vietnam
3. Australia
4. Laos
5. Peru
6. Egypt

Answers

1. Russia: 8
2. Vietnam: 15
3. Australia: 54
4. Laos: 101
5. Peru: 44
6. Egypt: 13

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How to play:

Pick a number from 1 to 6, perhaps by rolling a dice. That is the question number you'll use for the game today. On other occasions you can play with different questions, by choosing a different number.

Now (you can take turns, or designate one reader) one person reads a question, filling in with the name or item listed for the day's number.

Then each player writes down not one single number as an answer, but a range of numbers that they believe includes the right answer, such as "30-45". (Measurements are all metric. For players in countries that do not use this -- the USA, Liberia, and Myanmar -- there is no need to convert, most players can do a rough adjustment in their head and if they cannot, the practice will do them good.)

These answer sheets get divided into two groups: Those who *did* include the right number, and those who *did not*. (If the answer itself is a range, an answer is correct if there is any overlap at all with the correct range.)

The first group is arranged in order, with those who gave the smallest range going at the top. Now everybody in that first group gets a point for each answer in the second (wrong) group, and also a point for

each answer in the first group that ranked below them. No points for players in the second group, with an incorrect range.

This is one of many games described in Ben Orlin's superb book *Math Games with Bad Drawings*. He suggests that players think of a good question, find the answer, and take turns calling announcing the question, but do not play.

At our schools in Laos, that type of research would be harder, so we've made cards with a question at the top and six numbered items below, so that each question can be played six times, with different details.

We emphasize that the focus of the game is not how much you know, but how well you realize how much you do, or do not, know. You won't often find that on lists of "important life skills." It's important anyway.

Big Brother Mouse uses many games at our schools in Laos. As time allows, we are putting them on our website, so that others can enjoy them and learn from them.

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