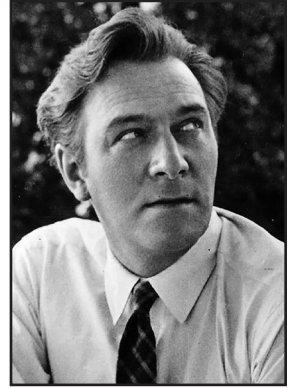


### Random Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions on a variety of topics. The questions are accompanied by the answers and additional information for discussion.

#### There are several activity possibilities:

- For a group activity, read and discuss the trivia questions and answers. Also print the [picture pages](#) to pass around during the activity.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Post one or more of the trivia questions on your bulletin board every day or so throughout the month using this [special sign](#).



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### Trivia Questions and Answers

1. What famous Canadian actor plays Captain von Trapp in the musical film *The Sound of Music*?

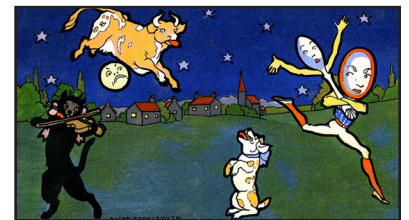
**Answer:** Christopher Plummer. He is the only Canadian actor to have won the Triple Crown of Acting—an Academy Award, an Emmy Award, and a Tony Award.

2. Which of the Great Lakes is located entirely within the United States?

**Answer:** Lake Michigan. The other four Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Erie, and Superior) are located between Canada and the United States.

3. What three animals are mentioned in the nursery rhyme “Hey, Diddle Diddle”?

**Answer:** A cat, a cow, and a dog. Many sources indicate the nursery rhyme has been around since the 16th century. Theories about the meaning of the rhyme have been unproven. Most say it is simply a nonsense poem.



4. What are the main ingredients of a rye and ginger cocktail?

**Answer:** Rye whiskey and ginger ale. Prior to Prohibition, many people drank rye whiskey straight. During Prohibition, grain alcohol was passed off as rye whiskey, and ginger ale was added to make it more drinkable.

5. What does *al dente* mean when cooking pasta?

**Answer:** Pasta should be cooked firm but not hard.

6. What casino game is sometimes called the “one-armed bandit”?

**Answer:** Slot machine. Older slot machines are activated by pulling down on the arm located on the side of the machine.

7. Which is an example of onomatopoeia: *ding-dong*, *house*, or *kayak*?

**Answer:** *Ding-dong*. Onomatopoeia is the use of words that imitate the sounds they represent.

8. What Irish actress stars in *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Quiet Man*?

**Answer:** Maureen O’Hara. Her other films include *How Green Was My Valley*, *Rio Grande*, and *Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation*.



9. What team sport uses the terms *crosse*, *rake*, and *crease*?

**Answer:** Lacrosse. Early inhabitants of North America first played the sport.

10. What is the name of the body organ that filters and removes waste from the blood?

**Answer:** Kidney. Only one kidney is needed for survival. The kidney also produces hormones.

11. What are the names of Donald Duck’s nephews?

**Answer:** Huey, Dewey, and Louie. The identical triplets first appeared in the comic strip in 1937. Their theatrical debut was in an animated short in 1938.

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**Answer:** Walt Disney. He has a total of 26 (22 Academy Awards and four honorary Academy Awards). It is doubtful that anyone will ever beat his record.

13. How many sides does a decagon have?

**Answer:** 10. *Deca* means 10.

14. Who is the Greek god of the sea?

**Answer:** Poseidon. Zeus and Hades are his brothers. Neptune is the Roman god of the sea.



15. What Canadian city was formerly known as Bytown?

**Answer:** Ottawa. It was known as Bytown until 1855.

16. What Canadian province has the largest land area?

**Answer:** Quebec. Nunavut is the largest territory.

17. What does the Latin quotation *Et tu, Brute?* mean in English?

**Answer:** “Even you, Brutus?” They are Julius Caesar’s last words in Shakespeare’s play *Julius Caesar*.

18. Which was made first: Ivory or Zest soap?

**Answer:** Ivory soap. Ivory soap was first sold in 1879. Zest wasn't introduced until 1952.



19. What two letters can be added to the beginning of the word *rugged* to make it a one-syllable word?

**Answer:** *Sh.* *Shrugged* is a one-syllable word.

20. What kind of animal is the cartoon character Scooby-Doo?

**Answer:** Dog. Scooby-Doo is a Great Dane.

21. What is the nickname of Philip Pirrip, the main character in *Great Expectations*?

**Answer:** Pip. The Charles Dickens novel was published in 1860.

22. How many feet are in a half mile?

**Answer:** 2,640. There are 5,280 feet in one mile.

23. In what decade did James Dean die in an auto accident?

**Answer:** 1950s. James Dean was recklessly speeding when the head-on collision occurred on September 30, 1955.

24. Buenos Aires is the capital city of what country?

**Answer:** Argentina. Buenos Aires is also the largest city in Argentina. It is the second-largest metropolitan area in South America.

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**Answer:** Three. The Arctic borders Canada to the north, the Pacific borders it to the west, and the Atlantic borders it to the east.

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**Answer:** Gertrude Stein. The famous quotation is a part of the 1913 poem "Sacred Emily." Stein used other variations of this sentence in later writings.



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**Answer:** Kangaroo. Other animals unique to the "Land Down Under" are the emu and the koala.

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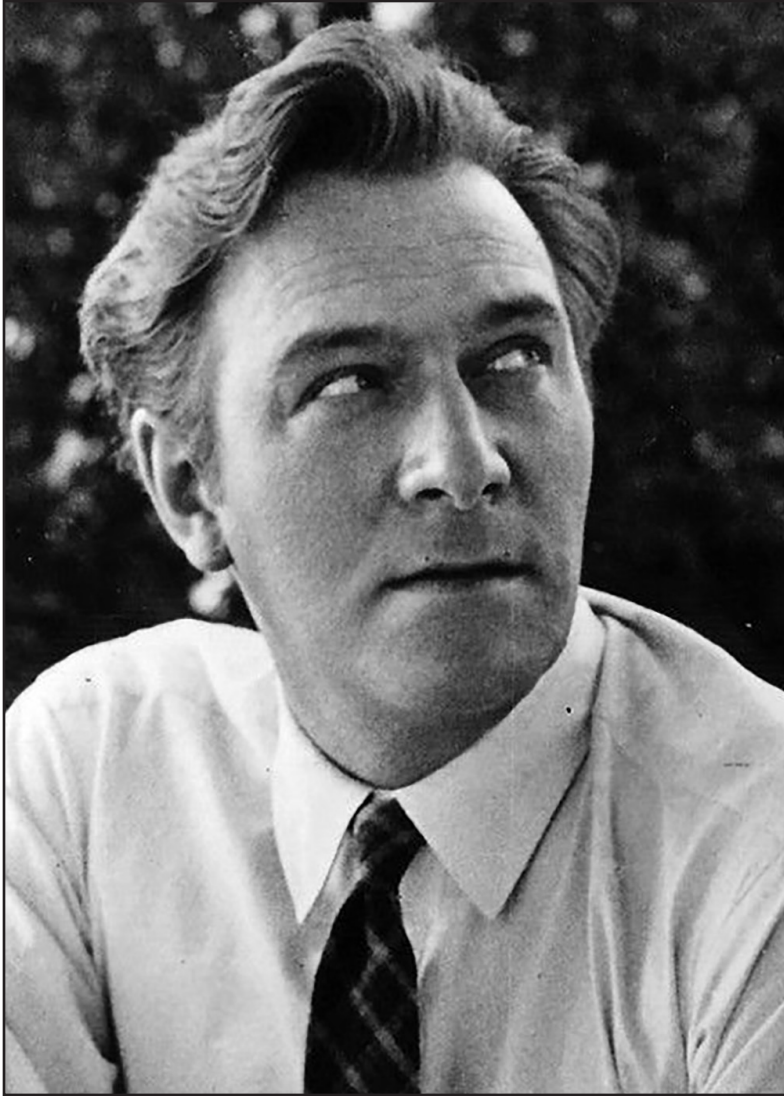
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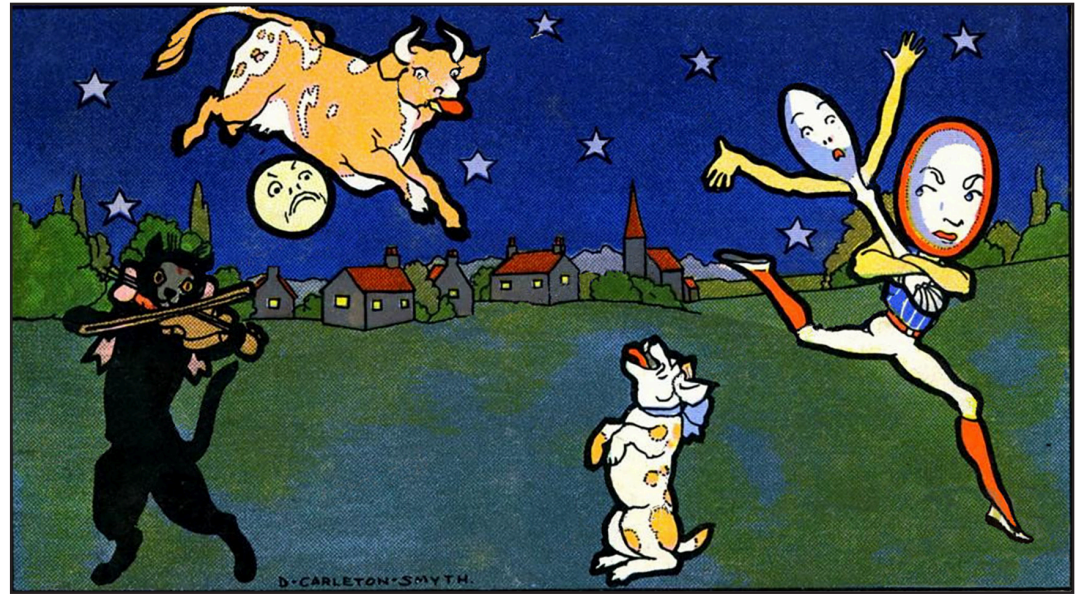
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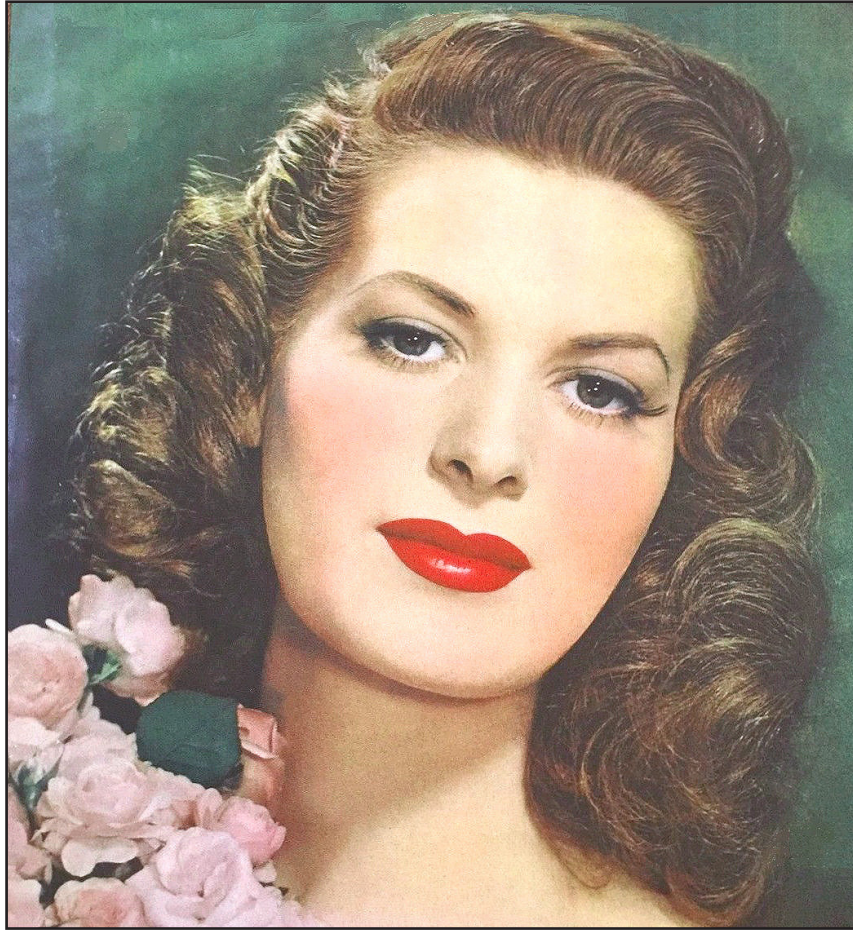
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Christopher Plummer



"Hey, Diddle Diddle"



Maureen O'Hara



Poseidon



Ivory Soap



Gertrude Stein

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(Questions Only)

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