

GMRC Christmas Quiz

Notes & Answers

Round 1 - Twelve Days of Christmas

We have jumbled up the 12 Days of Christmas.

**You have to guess which of the 12 Days is being represented using the clue.
Each clue is a close up photograph of an object held at Glasgow Museums
Resource Centre!**

Can you tell which day of Christmas it is by looking at the clues?

1. 11 Pipers Piping

Bagpipes, circa 1800

Bagpipes in Scotland could date back as far as the 1300s and the battle of Bannockburn!

2. 6 Geese-a-laying

Earthenware model of a goose

China, circa Tang Dynasty, 618-906 AD

Part of the Burrell Collection

3. 9 Ladies Dancing

Dress, circa 1805-1810

White Indian muslin with woven metal threads called badla, designed to twinkle under candlelight

4. 12 Drummers Drumming

Drum, China, Han Dynasty, 206 BC- 220 AD

Part of the Burrell Collection

5. 3 French Hens

Mende wood carving, Sierra Leone, Africa, before 1960

The Mende people are one of the two largest ethnic groups in Sierra Leone, known for their art

6. 8 Maids-a-milking

Milkmaids and cattle by a spinney

By Claes Pietersz Berchem, Dutch, circa 1645

7. 2 Turtle Doves

Stained glass window, German, circa 1400

Part of the Burrell Collection

8. 5 Gold Rings

Some believe that this part of the song refers to a ring-necked pheasant, and not to jewellery! This one was to try and catch you out!

9. 10 Lords-a-leaping

Landscape in Scotland with dancing figures, by I W Alston, late 1800s

Can anyone remember having to do dancing in school?

10.7 Swans-a-swimming

Baby cygnet

11.4 Colly Birds

Black birds! Colly was from colliery - mines - black as soot!

12. And a Partridge in a Pear Tree!

Although partridges aren't good at flying so they would have fallen out of the pear tree very quickly!

Round 2 - Traditions Around the World

Object Notes

1. Australia

Because it is summer in Australia at Christmas!

Australian Aboriginal bark painting, The Legend of the Wagilag Sisters
circa 1950s

It shows an ancestral python lying coiled in his sacred waterhole, protecting his eggs. A footprint indicates the ancestral Wagilag sisters who trespass on the snake's territory and dance to repel him. By Dawidi, artist and ceremonial leader with responsibility for the legend of the Wagilag sisters, Liyagalawumirri clan, Dhuwa moiety, Central Arnhem Land, Australia.

2. Ethiopia

It's called Ganna in Ethiopia, it falls on the 7th like many other Orthodox countries

Ceremonial shield, of rhinoceros hide, covered with red velvet and ornamented with gold filigree

Presented to Lord Inverclyde at Addis Ababa, in November 1951 by His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia.

3. Germany (also Austria and Italy)

Krampus is a terrifying horned monster who follows Santa and punishes the children who have been bad

Helmet, 16th Century, Saxony, Germany

Comb morion, wrought from a single piece of steel, one side is rondel with arms of Saxony, below on the skull is a rondel showing Marcus Curtius leaping into the gulf, on other side a rondel with insignia.

4. South America

In Peru, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico, wearing yellow underwear on New Year's Eve is said to bring good luck

And in Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina, they greet the New Year with pink underwear instead of yellow

Morpho Butterfly, Amazon Rainforest

What colour would you say this butterfly is?

This butterfly isn't really blue - it has reflective scales all over it and reflects the light! Imagine what it would look like in the South American sun!

5. Japan

3.6 Japanese people celebrate Christmas with KFC - it was basically a marketing ploy by a KFC manager in Japan in the 1970s

Fan made from tortoiseshell, ivory & silk

1870-1880, Japan

Treaty of Kanagawa in 1854 opened Japan to trade and this had a huge influence on art all over the world

The fan is from a collection of costume accessories given by Miss Jacobsen.

Fernanda Jacobsen served as a Commandant of the Scottish Ambulance Unit during the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, during which period she was given several fans, shawls and mantillas.

6. France

In some places, you might eat 13 desserts! All the desserts are made from different types of fruit, nuts and pastries.

Provençal Winter by Henry Herbert La Thangue, circa 1903

It would be nice if Scottish winters looked like this!

BONUS QUESTION

Mince pies were outlawed by Oliver Cromwell along with other Christmas traditions in 1644!

It's not really illegal any more, however - it's a bit of a myth. While the law was never really overturned, it was never really put into practice either so wouldn't be seen as illegal now!

End of Quiz

We finished on a couple of food questions - what do you normally eat on Christmas Day? Do you have any "weird" traditions?