

Wooden Spoon Quizzes

HISTORY

Pot Luck

Quiz # 31

Crafted with care... Stirred to Perfection

1. On 5 July 1948, Aneurin Bevan changed Britain forever by launching which now-iconic national institution?
2. Which exiled Russian Bolshevik revolutionary met a rather chilly end in Mexico in August 1940 — courtesy of an ice axe?
3. Which pioneering English nurse founded the first formal training school for nurses in Belgium in 1907?
4. Which London monument honouring Frederick, Duke of York — once mockingly dubbed an “odious column” — opened to the public in the late 19th century?
5. Martha Jane Canary was the real name of which sharpshooting Wild West legend, later played by Doris Day on the big screen?
6. In 1554, who ordered Princess Elizabeth to be locked up in the Bell Tower of the Tower of London?
7. At which historic location did General Cornwallis surrender, effectively ending the American Revolutionary War?
8. Which famous explorer is often credited with introducing both the potato and tobacco plants to Britain?
9. In 1933, who did Adolf Hitler appoint as his Minister of Propaganda?
10. Charles Darwin made his globe-spanning voyage aboard which ship?
11. Who emerged as the fiery leader of the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381?
12. During the winter of 1937, an outbreak of which disease claimed 43 lives in Croydon?





Questions

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Answers

1. The National Health Service (NHS)
2. Leon Trotsky
3. Edith Cavell
4. The Duke of York Column
5. Calamity Jane
6. Queen Mary I (Mary Tudor)
7. Yorktown, Virginia
8. Sir Walter Raleigh
9. Joseph Goebbels
10. HMS Beagle
11. Wat Tyler
12. Typhoid

One for the Bar!

1. 🏠 The NHS was launched at Park Hospital in Manchester — now Trafford General — and treatment was free from day one.
2. 🧊 Trotsky survived the first blow and reportedly insisted his attacker be kept alive for questioning. Hardcore revolutionary energy.
3. ✂️ Edith Cavell was later executed during WWI — her death sparked international outrage and recruitment propaganda.
4. 🏰 The Duke of York Column stands 124 feet tall in Waterloo Place — and yes, you can still climb it... if you don’t mind 168 steps.
5. 🎭 Calamity Jane’s life story was part fact, part frontier exaggeration — she was basically the 19th-century PR department of herself.
6. 👑 Elizabeth I later ruled for 45 years — awkward family dinners must’ve been legendary.
7. 🇺🇸 The surrender at Yorktown in 1781 effectively sealed American independence, even if paperwork took another two years.
8. 🥔 Raleigh didn’t invent chips — but he did help popularise the potato in Britain. We owe him at least a portion of gratitude.
9. 📰 Goebbels tightly controlled newspapers, film and radio — early proof that media influence shapes history.
10. 🌐 Darwin was just 22 when he boarded HMS Beagle — originally he was meant to study medicine.
11. 🔥 Wat Tyler was killed during negotiations in Smithfield — medieval protests had very poor HR policies.
12. 💧 The Croydon outbreak was traced to contaminated water — a grim reminder of pre-modern sanitation standards.

