



# Wooden Spoon Quizzes

## History

Crafted with care.... Stirred to Perfection

Quiz  
#32

1. One of Britain's worst engineering disasters struck in 1879 when which Scottish railway bridge collapsed beneath a crowded train?
2. Which famous explorer accompanied Sir Richard Burton on the 1857 expedition to discover the source of the River Nile?
3. In what year was the last person in Britain convicted under the Witchcraft Act?
4. Which Italian Fascist dictator was captured and executed by Italian partisans in April 1945?
5. During the Great Fire of London in 1666, what unusual items did Samuel Pepys bury in his garden to keep them safe from the flames?
6. After the 9/11 attacks, for approximately how long did the fires continue to burn beneath the rubble at Ground Zero?
7. What nickname did the Allied forces give to Germany's Westwall line of defensive fortifications built during the 1930s?
8. Historians believe construction of Stonehenge first began in approximately what year?
9. In April 1945, how much cheese was each adult in Britain allowed per week under wartime rationing?
10. Who became the first person to sail solo around the world aboard the yacht Gipsy Moth IV?
11. Which pioneering nurse became the first woman to receive the British Order of Merit?
12. Who was the famous mistress of Admiral Horatio Nelson?





## QUESTIONS

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## ANSWERS

1. Tay Bridge
2. John Hanning Speke
3. 1944
4. Benito Mussolini
5. Parmesan cheese and wine
6. Approximately 100 days (just over three months)
7. The Siegfried Line
8. Around 3000 BC
9. 2 ounces (57 grams)
10. Sir Francis Chichester
11. Florence Nightingale
12. Emma, Lady Hamilton



## ONE FOR THE BAR!

1. 🇬🇧 The Tay Bridge Disaster claimed the lives of 75 people and inspired William McGonagall's famously terrible poem The Tay Bridge Disaster.
2. 🌍 John Hanning Speke claimed to have found the source of the River Nile at Lake Victoria, sparking one of history's greatest exploration debates.
3. 🏠 The last conviction under Britain's Witchcraft Act was against Helen Duncan, who was prosecuted in 1944 for claiming to conduct séances.
4. ✂️ Benito Mussolini and his mistress Clara Petacci were executed together, and their bodies were later displayed upside down in Milan.
5. 🧀 Samuel Pepys recorded in his diary that he buried his prized Parmesan cheese and wine because he feared they would be destroyed by the Great Fire.
6. 🇬🇧 Fires beneath the rubble at Ground Zero continued to burn until December 2001—around 100 days after the attacks.
7. 🌿 The Siegfried Line stretched for more than 390 miles (630 km) and contained thousands of bunkers, tunnels and anti-tank obstacles.
8. 🏛️ Stonehenge wasn't built in a single phase—it was constructed over a period of around 1,500 years.
9. 🧀 By April 1945, Britain's weekly cheese ration had fallen to just 2 ounces per adult, one of the smallest wartime food allowances.
10. 🏆 Sir Francis Chichester completed his solo circumnavigation aboard Gipsy Moth IV in 1967 at the age of 65, earning a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.
11. 🏠 Florence Nightingale became the first woman appointed to the Order of Merit in 1907, Britain's highest honour for distinguished service.
12. 💕 The romance between Emma, Lady Hamilton, and Admiral Nelson scandalised Georgian society and became one of Britain's most famous love affairs.

