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3

If somebody hands you a pair of pinking shears, you're probably not heading to the hairdresser — what material are they designed to cut?

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It sounds like something from an ancient history exam, but by what much more familiar name is the Decalogue usually known?

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Brussels certainly loves an acronym! In European Union policy, what does CAP stand for?

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Open a hotel bedside drawer and you might find their handiwork. Which organisation, founded in 1899, became famous for distributing Bibles to hotels around the world?

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Despite sounding like it could be a picturesque English walking route, the Apennines are actually a mountain range running through which European country?

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July 14 means celebrations, fireworks and plenty of tricolours across France — what national occasion is being celebrated?

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Cartography sounds impressively scientific, but its practitioners have been helping us find our way around for centuries. What does a cartographer make and study?

10

Some metals can be pulled and stretched into remarkably thin wires without breaking. What scientific term describes this useful property?

11

St Paul was born in the ancient city of Tarsus — in which modern-day country would you find his birthplace today?

12

Protons and neutrons are packed together right at the heart of an atom — what is this central region called?





1 Take a glance at the top row of a standard QWERTY keyboard — which vowel is the odd one out, appearing somewhere else entirely?



A



E, I, O and U all live happily on the keyboard's top letter row, while poor old A has been relegated to the middle row — presumably without appealing the decision.

2 Nadya Suleman became a worldwide media sensation after giving birth to eight babies in 2009 — what memorable nickname did the press give her?



Octomom



Suleman's octuplets were six boys and two girls, and all eight survived infancy — making "having your hands full" something of an understatement.

3 If somebody hands you a pair of pinking shears, you're probably not heading to the hairdresser — what material are they designed to cut?



Fabric



Pinking shears cut fabric with a distinctive zigzag edge, helping reduce fraying — and having absolutely nothing to do with making things pink.

4 It sounds like something from an ancient history exam, but by what much more familiar name is the Decalogue usually known?



The Ten Commandments



"Decalogue" comes from Greek words meaning "ten words" — making it a considerably grander way of referring to the Ten Commandments.

5 Brussels certainly loves an acronym! In European Union policy, what does CAP stand for?



Common Agricultural Policy



The Common Agricultural Policy dates back to 1962 and remains one of the EU's major policies — proving that even farming can acquire a suitably bureaucratic three-letter abbreviation.

6 Open a hotel bedside drawer and you might find their handiwork. Which organisation, founded in 1899, became famous for distributing Bibles to hotels around the world?



The Gideons / Gideons International



The Gideons began placing Bibles in hotel rooms in 1908 after deciding that hotels were an ideal place to reach travelling members of the public.

7 Despite sounding like it could be a picturesque English walking route, the Apennines are actually a mountain range running through which European country?



Italy



The Apennines stretch roughly 1,200 kilometres down the Italian peninsula — essentially forming the mountainous backbone of Italy's famous boot.

8 July 14 means celebrations, fireworks and plenty of tricolours across France — what national occasion is being celebrated?



Bastille Day



The celebration marks the storming of the Bastille in 1789, one of the defining events of the French Revolution — although in France, you're more likely to hear it called le 14 juillet.

9 Cartography sounds impressively scientific, but its practitioners have been helping us find our way around for centuries. What does a cartographer make and study?



Maps / Mapmaking



Cartography combines science, geography and design to create maps — meaning cartographers were helping people navigate centuries before sat-nav started shouting "recalculating".

10 Some metals can be pulled and stretched into remarkably thin wires without breaking. What scientific term describes this useful property?



Ductile



Gold is exceptionally ductile and can be drawn into incredibly fine wire — considerably more impressive than stretching the last tenner until payday.

11 St Paul was born in the ancient city of Tarsus — in which modern-day country would you find his birthplace today?



Turkey



Tarsus lies in southern Turkey, not far from the Mediterranean coast, and was already an important city long before St Paul came along.

12 Protons and neutrons are packed together right at the heart of an atom — what is this central region called?



The nucleus



Almost all of an atom's mass is concentrated inside its tiny nucleus — despite the nucleus occupying only a minuscule fraction of the atom's overall volume.

