

4/16/23

# How Much Do You Know About...

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Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Tokens (for scorekeeping); Prizes (small) for winner(s)

Suitable for visually impaired players.

## Overview:

In this game, we look at one subject in depth – it could be a person, place, event, or thing. This week, let's see how much you know about ... **COTTON**.

## Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give one answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Just answer the questions to find out how much you know about today's subject ... COTTON.

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1. Historians believe that cotton was first cultivated in the area that encompasses northern India and eastern Pakistan. Can you name the Indian cotton fabric, typically a colorful plaid, that was very popular in the 1960s? The dyes used in one type of this fabric were not colorfast, which resulted in bleeding and fading and gave a new look to the fabric each time it was laundered.
2. Cotton has been cultivated in Mexico and South America for centuries. It was not only used for clothing; coastal villagers often wove cotton into these useful fishing items.
3. The cotton plant is in the same family as the hibiscus and this vegetable, which is used in gumbo and other thick soups and stews.
4. Can you name three of the five US states that produce the most cotton?
5. The invention of machines such as the spinning jenny, which industrialized the production of cotton threads and fabric, helped this country become a major manufacturer of cotton by the early 1700s.
6. Eli Whitney is famous for having invented the cotton gin. What does the cotton gin do?
7. Can you name the insect, a member of the beetle family, that was a scourge to cotton farmers in the 19th and 20th centuries, until an eradication program in the 1970s helped control the pest population?
8. The 1950's introduction of this synthetic fiber, known for its durability and wrinkle resistance, was viewed as a significant threat to the cotton industry.
9. The popularity of polyester prompted cotton producers to devise strategies to improve the image of and the market for cotton. This led to a series of new advertisements. Finish the lyrics to this familiar jingle: "The touch, the feel of cotton. The fabric \_\_\_\_\_."

10. What is the name of the cotton material, woven with loops, that is known for being highly absorbent?
11. What is the name of cloth used in blue work shirts (from which the term "blue collar" stems)?
12. This type of cotton, named after the country where it is primarily grown, is used in the luxury cotton market. It has particularly long fibers and is softer, more durable, and much more expensive than American pima cotton.
13. What part of making a pot of coffee involves cotton?

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## ANSWERS

1. Madras (or Bleeding Madras)
2. Nets
3. Okra
4. Texas, California, Georgia, Mississippi, and Arkansas (followed by Louisiana, North Carolina, and Arizona)
5. England. Note: The city of Manchester, England was nicknamed "Cottonopolis," due to its important role in the importation of raw materials and the production of cotton fabric.
6. The cotton gin separates the cotton fibers from the seeds. The cotton gin revolutionized the production of cotton in the American South, a tedious job that previously required considerable manual labor. Less than half a century after the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, the United States was providing two-thirds of the world's cotton ... most of the work, of course, still being done by slaves.
7. The boll weevil
8. Polyester
9. " ... of our lives."
10. Terrycloth
11. Chambray (Cambric is also correct.)
12. Egyptian cotton
13. Most coffee filters are made with cotton.