

4/23/23

Mathematically Speaking

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

While the clues in this quiz may have little or nothing to do with mathematics, all of the answers do. For example, the answer to the clue *An Egyptian burial tomb* is *pyramid* — which, mathematically speaking, is “a polyhedron formed by connecting a polygonal base and a top point or apex.”

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first clue. 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 player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may “buzz” in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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Instructions: All of the answers in this quiz have some relationship to mathematics – although the clues may not.

QUESTIONS

1. In the 1950s and '60s, this was the opposite of a “hip” person.
2. The American pioneers formed this shape with their wagons when they came under attack.
3. The shape of ice in your freezer.
4. The tip of a pen or pencil.
5. An ice cream holder.
6. Where clothes were dried before the 1950s.
7. The headquarters building of the United States military.
8. Preferred transportation for a very long trip.
9. A measure of the percentage of alcohol content in whiskey, gin, and other hard liquors.
10. A substitute for mother’s milk.
11. The bars a male gymnast competes on ... or, the more difficult way to park a car.
12. The shape of a rainbow.
13. An orchestra instrument that is usually very popular in grammar school bands.

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ANSWERS

1. Square
2. Circle
3. Cube
4. Point
5. Cone
6. Line
7. Pentagon
8. Plane
9. Proof
10. Formula
11. Parallel
12. Arc
13. Triangle