

11/30/25

How Much Do You Know About...

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 ... **SOAP**.

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 this week's subject ... SOAP.

1. The earliest recorded evidence of the production of soap dates back to around 2800 BC in ancient Babylon. In 1550 BC, a papyrus from this ancient country recorded that a soap-like product (used as a medicine) was created by combining animal fats with soda ash.

Somewhere around the first century AD, true soaps, which we might recognize today, were developed. They were made deliberately to be cleansers; they foamed; and they could be produced in either a hard (bar) form or a softer, more liquid version. The 1st-century Roman writer, Pliny the Elder, credited the Gauls with the invention of true soap. Can you name two of the seven modern-day countries that were part of the ancient region called Gaul

2. Also around the first century AD, this ancient empire popularized the public bath, not simply as a way to get clean, but also as a social activity that was connected to cultural ritual and and medical health.
3. With the fall of Rome around 500 AD, bathing declined in Europe, partly due to Christian suspicion of public baths, which were associated with immorality. During this time, human life spans were shortened and disease spread more easily. However, in the Islamic World, Arab chemists advanced soap-making by adding this ingredient, elevating soap into an art form and speading the knowledge to the world through trade of this now luxury item.
4. The Industrial Revolution (roughly 1760 to 1840) marked a turning point in the history of soap. Once again, soap was a popular product in Europe, and new soap-making techniques and mass production technologies made soap available to most households. Two major companies emerged during this time. In England, Lever Brothers produced this particular soap, still available today, which was initially used in medical settings and was considered a pioneering health product for everyday consumers.
5. In the United States, the Proctor & Gamble Company was founded during the 1830s in Cincinnati, Ohio as a candle and soap company. What was the name of its first commercial soap, which is still popular today?

6. Speaking of Ivory Soap: what was the slogan, or tag line, used to market Ivory and helped establish it as a household name?
7. What was the brand name of the rough pumice soap that was introduced in 1893 and was used especially by laborers to scour tar, engine grease, paint, and grime from the skin?
8. How many brands of bar soaps can you name (past or present)?
9. How many brands of dishwashing/dishwasher soap can you name?
10. How many brands of shampoo can you name?
11. Can you finish this advertising catchphrase? "Aren't you glad you use _____? Don't you wish everybody did?"
12. What dishwashing detergent did TV's "Madge the Manicurist" have her customers soaking in?
13. Which soap brand was marketed for decades with the phrase "You're not fully clean until you're _____ fully clean?"
14. "Manly, yes, but I like it too" was a popular tagline for which soap?

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ANSWERS

1. Egypt. The way it works (in a nutshell) is that ashes, when soaked, produce lye. Lye, when combined with oil or other fats produce soap and glycerin. The soap combines with water to lift the dirt and oils so that they wash away. The glycerin that remains is a natural moisturizer.
2. France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, and Northern Italy (basically most of western Europe)
3. The Roman Empire. Archeological evidence of Roman baths have been found across the entire Roman Empire from Britain to Syria.
4. Perfume
5. Lifebuoy
6. Ivory Soap
7. The slogan "99 and 44/100% pure" was first used in 1882, and a few years later, the slogan "so pure it floats" was also used. (It's interesting to note that Proctor & Gamble began to diversify its products in 1911, when it introduced Crisco, a shortening made of vegetable oils rather than animal fats.)
8. Lava
9. Camay, Caress, CeraVe, Cetaphil, Dove, Dr. Bronner's, Olay, Irish Spring, Dial, Ivory, Tom's of Maine, Zest, etc. *(Other correct answers are possible.)*
10. Dawn, Palmolive, Joy, Ajax, Gain, Seventh Generation, Cascade, Finish, etc. *(Other correct answers are possible.)*
11. Aveda, Bumble & Bumble, CereVe, Dove, Garnier-Fructis, Head and Shoulders, Herbal Essences, Johnson & Johnson, Kerastase, L'Oreal, Method, Nexus, Pantene, Paul Mitchell, Redken, Suave, Tresemmé, etc. *(Other correct answers are possible.)*
12. Dial
13. Palmolive
14. Zest
15. Irish Spring