

6/14/26

A Collection of Collective Terms

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

One of the more interesting aspects of English is the remarkable number of collective nouns we use. Many people are familiar with the collective terms for various species of animals, such as *a herd of cattle*, *a school of fish*, or *a swarm of bees*. Some collective nouns are less well known, but can be evocative and sometimes quite beautiful: *an exultation of larks*, *a murder of crows*, and *a parade of elephants*.

Collective nouns aren't used just for grouping animals. Consider, for example, *a belt of asteroids*, *a network of computers*, *a bundle of firewood*, or *a chain of islands*. And although they may not be "officially" recognized groupings, it's fun to come up with some particularly creative ones, such as *a shuffle of bureaucrats*, *a goring of butchers*, *an eloquence of lawyers*, or *a piddle of puppies*.

In this game, we have given you the item or entity in question. Your job is to provide the collective term. Some will be common phrases, others will be less familiar. And while you may not know the actual answers in some instances,, it can be fun making guesses!

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, or play is just for fun without scoring. It's up to you.

6/14/26

A Collection of Collective Terms

INSTRUCTIONS: In this game, we have given you the item or entity in question. Your job is to provide the collective term. Some will be common phrases; others will be less familiar. And while you may not know the actual answers in some instances, it can be fun making guesses!

1. A _____ of angels
2. A _____ of arrows
3. A _____ of asparagus
4. A _____ of bananas
5. A _____ of books
6. A _____ of cars/trucks
7. A _____ of cards
8. A _____ of eggs
9. A _____ of fungi
10. A _____ of grapes
11. A _____ of money
12. A _____ of pearls
13. An _____ of riches
14. A _____ of stairs
15. A _____ of stars
16. A _____ of trash
17. A _____ of trees
18. A _____ of actors
19. A _____ of beauties
20. A _____ of candidates
21. A _____ of churchgoers
22. A _____ of experts
23. A _____ of hoodlums
24. An _____ of listeners
25. A _____ of onlookers
26. A _____ of thieves
27. A _____ of trustees
28. A _____ of witches

6/14/26

A Collection of Collective Terms

ANSWERS

(In some cases, other more obscure correct answers are possible.)

1. A host/chorus of angels
2. A quiver of arrows
3. A bundle of asparagus
4. A bunch/hand of bananas
5. A library of books
6. A fleet of cars/trucks
7. A deck of cards
8. A clutch of eggs
9. A colony of fungi
10. A bunch/cluster of grapes
11. A wad of money
12. A string/rope of pearls
13. An embarrassment of riches
14. A flight of stairs
15. A galaxy/constellation of stars
16. A heap of trash
17. A stand/forest/grove of trees
18. A cast/company of actors
19. A bevy of beauties
20. A slate of candidates
21. A congregation of churchgoers
22. A panel of experts
23. A gang of hoodlums
24. An audience of listeners
25. A crowd of onlookers
26. A den/gang of thieves
27. A board of trustees
28. A coven of witches