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Odd Man Out

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

Overview:

In this game, we provide a list of three to five items. All but one have something in common. You have to figure out which item on each list is the **Odd Man Out** – and explain why it doesn't fit in with the others.

For example, if the list contained: *Scarlet, Ecru, Magenta,* and *Crimson*, the **Odd Man Out** is *Ecru,* because it is the only color in the list that is not a shade of red. (Ecru is off-white.) That example was fairly obvious. Here's one that's a little more difficult: *Lion, Elephant, Tiger,* and *Wolf*. The **Odd Man Out** is *Elephant,* because it is the only animal on the list that is not a carnivore. Here's another hard one: *Juneau, Little Rock, Des Moines*, and *Phoenix*. The **Odd Man Out** is *Des Moines,* because it is the only capital city in the list that is not in a state that begins with the letter A.

This game can be challenging, so it might be a particularly good game to play in teams.

Instructions:

1. Divide the players evenly into teams (or as closely as possible).
2. Read the first list of clues. 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.

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Instructions: All but one item in a given list have something in common. You have to figure out which one is the Odd Man Out – and explain why it doesn't fit in with the others. For example, given: *Scarlet, Ecru, Magenta,* and *Crimson*, the Odd Man Out is *Ecru*, because it is the only color in the list that is not a shade of red.

QUESTIONS

1. Moussaka, Vichyssoise, Bouillabaisse, Gazpacho
2. Richard J. Daley, Rudy Giuliani, Pete Buttigieg, Rahm Emanuel, Joe Biden
3. Charles, Anne, Andrew, Edward, John
4. Hawksbill, Hammerhead, Leatherback, Loggerhead
5. Albus Dumbledore, Hermione Granger, Marty McFly, Ron Weasley
6. Tlingit, Inuit, Anorak, Aleut
7. Under, And, Over, Around

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ANSWERS

1. *Moussaka* is the Odd Man Out. It is a Greek beef dish. All the others are types of soup.

2. *Joe Biden* is the Odd Man Out. All the others were mayors of a US city. Biden was never a mayor. (Richard J. Daley was mayor of Chicago, Rudy Giuliani was mayor of New York City, Pete Buttigieg was mayor of South Bend, IN, and Rahm Emanuel was mayor of Chicago.)

3. *John* is the Odd Man Out. The others are the four children of Queen Elizabeth II of England.

4. *Hammerhead* is the Odd Man Out. It is a type of shark. The others are all species of sea turtles.

5. *Marty McFly* is the Odd Man Out. He is the main character in the *Back to the Future* movies. The others are all characters from the *Harry Potter* franchise of books and movies.

6. *Anorak* is the Odd Man Out. It is the name of a waterproof jacket or parka. All the rest are names of Native American tribes.

7. *And* is the Odd Man Out. It is a conjunction. All the rest are prepositions.

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