

7/7/24 How Much Do You Know About ...

Aspirin

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

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

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 ... **ASPIRIN**.

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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QUESTIONS

1. This ancient Greek physician, famous for penning the ethical oath taken by all new doctors, prescribed a tea made from the bark of the willow tree for the pain of childbirth. What he didn't know then was that willow bark contains salicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin.
2. In March 1899, this well known German pharmaceutical company slightly changed the molecular structure of salicylic acid to reduce its uncomfortable side effects and marketed this new drug under the name "aspirin."
3. When Bayer began marketing aspirin, the company also debuted another painkiller. Related to morphine (and known today as one of the most addictive substances on earth), it was given this name, from the German word for "heroic."
4. Aspirin was the first "real" medicine to be sold in this form.
5. What happened in 1915 (16 years after aspirin was patented by the Bayer Company), that helped it become the best selling medicine in the world?
6. Aspirin was the most popular painkiller in the United States (and most of the world) until the 1950s, when this new brand of medication was introduced. It was considered as effective as aspirin, but it contained acetaminophen and didn't cause stomach bleeding, a common side effect of aspirin.
7. Today, the medical use of aspirin is not limited to pain relief. Can you come up with two other conditions/diseases that are helped by aspirin?
8. How aspirin actually works in the body was a mystery for nearly a century, until British scientist John Vane figured out that aspirin blocks the production of a hormone that triggers pain signals to the brain. How was Vane honored for this research?
9. Bristol-Myers Squibb introduced Excedrin in the 1960s, when it was discovered that aspirin combined with this common stimulant was an even more powerful headache reliever.

10. This over-the-counter medicine, which contains a combination of aspirin, sodium bicarbonate, and citric acid, has been extensively advertised since its introduction in 1911, with slogans that included “I can’t believe I ate the whole thing!” and “Mama Mia, that’s a spicy meatball!”
11. Can you name five types of pain killers (generic or brand name, over-the-counter or perscription) other than aspirin?

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ANSWERS

1. Hippocrates
2. Bayer
3. Heroin. Bayer expected heroin to sell better than aspirin because it was a more powerful pain reliever and had fewer side effects. Apparently Bayer was unaware of the addictive nature of heroin.
4. A pill, or water-soluble tablet. Prior to aspirin, all “scientific” drugs were sold as liquids or as powders, which were sometimes formed into pills by pharmacists.
5. Aspirin became available without a doctor’s prescription.
6. Tylenol
7. Angina; back pain; blood clots; colorectal cancer; fever; heart attack; migraine; inflammation; Kawasaki disease; osteoarthritis; rheumatic fever; rheumatoid arthritis; stroke (*Other correct answers are possible.*)
8. He won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1982.
9. Caffeine
10. Alka-Seltzer
11. Advil; Aleve; Alka-Seltzer; Anacin; Anbesol; Aspercreme; Aspergum; Blue-Emu; Celebrex; Codeine; Demerol; Diclofenac; Dilaudid; Doan’s Pills; Excedrin; Fentanyl; Heroin; Ibuprofen; Icy Hot Patch; Lanacane; Meloxicam; Methodone; Midol; Morphine; Motrin; Nuprin; Opiate; Opium; Oxycodone; Oxycontin; Percocet; Percodan; Salonpas; Trasodone; Tylenol; Vicodin; Voltaren (*Other correct answers are possible.*)