Science Trivia

Name _____ Score ____ / 25

1. What is the chemical formula for water?

A. H_2O **B.** NaCl **C.** CO_2 **D.** HO_2

2. How many planets are in our solar system?

A. 9 **B.** 10 **C.** 8 **D.** 7

3. At what temperature does water boil at sea level on the Fahrenheit scale?

A. 100 degrees **B.** 212 degrees **C.** 180 degrees **D.** 200 degrees

4. Who developed the theory of relativity?

A. Albert Einstein **B.** Isaac Newton
C. Max Planck **D.** Niels Bohr

5. What is the center of an atom called?

A. Orbit **B.** Electron **C.** Nucleus **D.** Molecule

6. Which force keeps the planets moving around the Sun?

A. Magnetism **B.** Static electricity
C. Friction **D.** Gravity

7. Which scientist wrote “On the Origin of Species” (1859)?

A. Carl Linnaeus **B.** Louis Pasteur
C. Charles Darwin **D.** Gregor Mendel

8. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the first person to win two?

A. Rosalind Franklin **B.** Ada Lovelace
C. Lise Meitner **D.** Marie Curie

9. What kind of rock forms when lava or magma cools?

A. Limestone **B.** Metamorphic **C.** Igneous **D.** Sedimentary

10. In 1953, which two scientists described the double helix of DNA?

A. Watson and Crick **B.** Pasteur and Koch
C. Banting and Best **D.** Curie and Becquerel

11. Which unit measures electrical resistance?

A. Volt **B.** Ohm **C.** Ampere **D.** Watt

12. What is the most common element in the universe?

A. Carbon **B.** Hydrogen **C.** Helium **D.** Oxygen

13. What is the pH of pure water?

A. 0 **B.** 7 **C.** 5 **D.** 14

14. Which American flew a kite in a thunderstorm to show that lightning is electricity?

A. Benjamin Franklin **B.** Alexander Graham Bell
C. Samuel Morse **D.** Thomas Edison

15. How long does it take the Earth to travel once around the Sun?

A. Exactly 365 days **B.** About 366 and a half days
C. About 365 and a quarter days **D.** Exactly 360 days

16. Which layer of gas high above the Earth blocks much of the Sun’s ultraviolet light?

A. The ozone layer **B.** The magnetosphere
C. The jet stream **D.** The troposphere

17. What kind of energy does a moving object have?

A. Potential energy **B.** Chemical energy
C. Thermal energy **D.** Kinetic energy

18. Which blood cells fight infections?

A. Nerve cells
B. Red blood cells
C. Platelets
D. White blood cells

19. How many chambers does the human heart have?

A. 4 **B.** 3 **C.** 6 **D.** 2

20. What is the study of earthquakes called?

A. Seismology **B.** Volcanology **C.** Meteorology **D.** Geography

21. What is absolute zero on the Celsius scale?

A. −459.67 degrees
B. −100 degrees
C. −212 degrees
D. −273.15 degrees

22. Which planet is often called the Morning Star or the Evening Star?

A. Mercury **B.** Saturn **C.** Mars **D.** Venus

23. Which organ makes insulin?

A. Spleen **B.** Liver **C.** Pancreas **D.** Kidney

24. Who named the cell after looking at thin slices of cork under a microscope in 1665?

A. Antonie van Leeuwenhoek
B. Robert Hooke
C. Isaac Newton
D. Galileo Galilei

25. About how long does sunlight take to reach the Earth?

A. About 1 minute
B. About 8 minutes
C. About 8 seconds
D. About 8 hours

Answer Key

1. **A. H_2O**
   Two hydrogen atoms joined to one oxygen atom; CO_2 is carbon dioxide and NaCl is table salt.

2. **C. 8**
   Pluto was counted as the ninth until 2006, when it was reclassified as a dwarf planet.

3. **B. 212 degrees**
   That is 100 degrees Celsius; high in the mountains water boils at a lower temperature.

4. **A. Albert Einstein**
   His famous equation, $E = mc^2$, came out of his special theory of relativity in 1905.

5. **C. Nucleus**
   It holds the protons and neutrons, and the electrons move around it.

6. **D. Gravity**
   Isaac Newton described the law of universal gravitation in 1687.

7. **C. Charles Darwin**
   His ideas grew from a five-year voyage on HMS Beagle that took him to the Galápagos Islands.

8. **D. Marie Curie**
   She won for physics in 1903 and for chemistry in 1911.

9. **C. Igneous**
   Granite and basalt are both igneous rocks.

10. **A. Watson and Crick**
    Their model drew on X-ray pictures of DNA made by Rosalind Franklin.

11. **B. Ohm**
    It is named after the German physicist Georg Ohm.

12. **B. Hydrogen**
    Stars like the Sun shine by fusing hydrogen into helium.

13. **B. 7**
    Below 7 is acidic, like lemon juice; above 7 is basic, like baking soda.

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Answer Key, continued

14. **A. Benjamin Franklin**
    The famous kite experiment took place in Philadelphia in 1752.

15. **C. About 365 and a quarter days**
    The extra quarter of a day is why a leap day is added almost every four years.

16. **A. The ozone layer**
    Ozone is a form of oxygen with three atoms instead of two.

17. **D. Kinetic energy**
    A ball held up high has potential energy, which turns into kinetic energy as it falls.

18. **D. White blood cells**
    Red blood cells carry oxygen, and platelets help the blood to clot.

19. **A. 4**
    Two atria at the top take in blood, and two ventricles below pump it out.

20. **A. Seismology**
    Scientists record the shaking of the ground with an instrument called a seismograph.

21. **D. −273.15 degrees**
    It is the coldest anything can ever be: −459.67 degrees Fahrenheit, or 0 on the Kelvin scale.

22. **D. Venus**
    After the Moon, it is the brightest natural object in the night sky.

23. **C. Pancreas**
    Insulin helps the cells of the body take in sugar from the blood.

24. **B. Robert Hooke**
    He called the tiny boxes cells, from the Latin word for a small room.

25. **B. About 8 minutes**
    Light travels about 186,000 miles a second, and the Sun is about 93 million miles away.

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