



## Squirrel Kurres tricky quiz!

**Question 1**      What is the name of the mineral that glitters in this big stone?

- 1) Pica
- x) Dica
- 2) Mica

Comment: Mica is one of the three most common minerals in our Swedish bedrock. Other common ones are quartz and feldspar.

**Question 2**      Here in the smithy, in the 1800s they used to forge:

- 1) Stiletto heels
- x) Spiked shoes for athletics
- 2) Horseshoes

Comment: Most villages had their own smithy, usually near the edge of the village due to the risk of fire. The blacksmith was often a farrier as well. He made horseshoes of exactly the right size so that they wouldn't tear the horses' hooves while they worked in the stony fields or on the hard gravel roads.

**Question 3**      What can you use white cushion moss (sphagnum) for? *Hint: It grows in bogs and can absorb a lot of water.*

- 1) For aches and pains.
- x) To put on cuts, and as nappies and toilet paper
- 2) For stress and tummy problems.

Comment: White cushion moss was used mainly for hygiene. There are lots of other uses it's been put to by people ever since the Stone Age: in cooking pits, lamp wicks, water source, water cleaning, bandages, pads, shoe soles, scourers and babies' beds.

**Question 4**      There is a bird that lays its eggs in other birds' nests. Here it has laid one in the nest of a Lesser Whitethroat. Whose egg is it?

- 1) Great tit
- x) Blackbird
- 2) Cuckoo

Comment: 2) It's the cuckoo that lays its eggs in other birds' nests. The female throws out an egg from, for instance, the nest of a Lesser Whitethroat, and then lays her own egg there. Although the cuckoo's egg is much bigger, the Whitethroat incubates it as well as her own. When the eggs hatch, both of the foster parents feed the baby cuckoo.

**Question 5**      This imposing tree here is an ash. In Viking legends, an ash tree held up the whole world with its branches. That tree was called:

- 1) Birk
- x) Rune
- 2) Yggdrasil

Comment: 1) Birk is an Old Norse word that means birch. There were probably a lot of birches at *Birka*, the Viking trading centre.

x) Rune is also a very old name that was well-suited for rune carvers – a job that developed into book publisher. Find out more in the Graphic Museum!

2) On one of the branches of the world tree, *the Yggdrasil Ash*, the giants lived. People lived on another and, on yet another, the gods lived.

**Question 6**      Why do birds such as jackdaws sometimes sit on horses' backs?

- 1) Jackdaws eat tiny snails that live in the horses' hair.
- x) Jackdaws collect horsehair for making their nests.
- 2) Jackdaws talk to the horses to warn them of danger.

Comment: 1) There are no snails in horses' hair.

x) We've seen that jackdaws pluck loose hair from horses when they shed their winter coat in the spring. Try to see them doing it!

2) Birds and mammals listen to each others' warning cries. Just like other birds in the crow family, jackdaws can learn to talk in the same way parrots do. But we have never yet seen a jackdaw on a horse's back just before the horse has galloped away from an apparent danger.

**Question 7**      What do wood-lice do?

- 1) They hunt continuously. If there's no other prey, they eat their own young.
- x) They hunt sometimes. Their young grow up on their own.
- 2) They eat dead plants. They look after their young with great care and carry them on their stomach.

Comment: You can make a terrarium for wood-lice to see what they eat and how they care for their young. When you're outdoors and lift up stones or dead branches, you can see how wood-lice move around and eat. Look carefully under their stomach – try to use a loupe magnifier – to see if babies are clinging on. Take care to see that the young don't fall off from their mother.

**Question 8**      A popular sweet we eat nowadays contains something that people ate in the Stone Age. What was the ingredient?

- 1) Acorns - in organic marshmallows.
- x) Beechnuts - in dark chocolate.
- 2) Hazelnuts - in nougat.

Comment: In the Stone Age, people ate all three kinds of nuts or acorns. They roasted acorns and beechnuts in a fire or soaked and drained them. Try roasting or soaking them and have a taste! However, it's only nougat that contains hazelnuts. Chocolate and marshmallows don't contain any acorns or beechnuts.

**Question 9** Was it possible to tell from the flowers of the *Mountain Tobacco* plant when it was time to hay-make in the meadows for the animals' winter feed?

1) Yes, it was when the large flower ("the farmer") and the nearest smaller flowers ("the farmhands") bloomed.

x) No, you couldn't tell. People used an almanac.

2) No, haymaking was done after the holiday period.

Comment: 1) Yes, you could tell from the *Mountain Tobacco*, and there were other flowers too that people looked out for, such as the *Yellow Rattle*. When its seeds had ripened you could hear how they rattled when it was time for haymaking.

x) Haymaking was done long before almanacs were invented. It was more important to read Nature's signs than to stick to fixed dates.

2) Farmers didn't take holiday in summertime. On farms, winter was the time for resting.

**Question 10** Which of these plants can you use to make rope?

1) Nettle

x) Dandelion

2) Cow parsley

Comment: Young nettle leaves can be eaten but the main importance of nettles has been as a plant for spinning. You can make thread for sewing and weaving, as well as twine and rope.

**Question 11** Small birds often build their nests in this blackthorn bush. Why do they like it there?

1) Birds like to use the thorns to build their nests.

x) They feed their young with the juice of the berries.

2) The thorns prevent the nest from being eaten or damaged.

Comment: 2) Lots of birds like to build their nests in prickly bushes, to protect their young against predators. x) The juice of the berries is not nutritious enough for baby birds.

**Question 12** Here, malt was dried for making beer. Have a look around! Another ingredient for beer you can see growing nearby is:

1) Willow bark on the tree beside you

x) Sap from the birches in the pasture

2) Hops on the hop poles

Comment: Willow bark was used as a medicine to relieve pain and to lower fever. Birch sap was used as a sweet energy-drink in springtime. It's hops that are the flavouring and antibacterial ingredient in beer. A long time ago, farms had to hand in hops to the Crown as a kind of tax. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, this farm had about 400 poles for hops.

**Question 13** "*The meadow is the mother of the field*" is an old saying. Look around! What did it mean?

1) Meadows gave food for animals, which gave fertiliser for fields, which gave grain for bread, which people ate.

x) Meadows provided wood for farmers, who made fences around fields.

2) Meadows produced flowers for children, who sang for the oxen that worked in the fields.

Comment: 1) Meadows produced winter feed for animals. The size of the meadows decided how many animals could be kept alive over the winter. The amount of manure from these animals affected how much arable land could be fertilised to produce grain with which to bake bread and, thus, how many people could live there.

- x) Wood was usually taken from other trees, as meadow trees were used as winter feed for animals.
- 2) It's true that singing can make work easier, maybe even for animals, who feel that people who sing are calm and content. But the amount of meadow flowers has no direct connection with the meadow work here.

**Question 14** Have you seen a rabbit or hare today? What do you think they look like when they're born? *Hint: Rabbits burrow and live underground.*

1) A baby rabbit is born hairless but a leveret (baby hare) has fur.

x) Both the rabbit and hare are born hairless.

2) A baby rabbit is born with fur and a hare is born hairless.

Comment: As the rabbit digs burrows and lives underground, its young are born in a safe place where no camouflage or warm fur is needed, so the babies are born blind and hairless. Leverets, which are born above ground, need warm fur, good eyesight and camouflage so that predators can't find them.

**Question 15** How do you build a stone wall?

1) You place the stones on top of each other on the ground.

x) You lay logs on the ground and then stones on top of the logs.

2) You dig a ditch that you fill with stones. Then you continue building the wall upwards on top of the stones in the ditch.

Comment: 1) If you place the stones directly on the ground, parts of the wall can collapse in the spring when the frost in the ground thaws and the ground subsides.

x) Logs rot. When they decay and take up less space, the stones that lay on top of them get displaced and the wall will collapse.

2) A well-built stone wall is as big under the ground as on top. A ditch should be dug to a depth that the frost won't reach. Then the ditch is filled with stones and the wall that is built on top will be strong and remain standing.

**Question 16** What is the English name for *Tussilago*?

1) Dandelion

x) Coltsfoot

2) Buttercup

Comment: The English name for the plant is Coltsfoot because of the shape of the leaves. They are like horses' hooves (a colt is a young horse) but the leaves do not appear at the same time as the flowers but grow in later.

**Question 17** How long is manure kept in the stack before being spread out on fields and gardens?

1) at least 1 month

x) at least 1 year

2) at least 5 years

Comment: Manure needs to be "burned" before being spread on fields. A month is too short a time and five years is too long. If you waited 5 years, rainwater would wash all the nutrients out of the manure, with none left for the land where it's needed. Allowing manure to stand over the course of a winter is ideal, then spreading out in the spring, ready for crops to grow.

**Question 18**      **How long is a female pig pregnant (the time during which babies grow inside the mother)?**

- 1) 3 years, 3 months and 3 days.
- x) 3 weeks, 3 days and 3 hours.
- 2) 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.

**Question 19**      **What is a squeaker?**

- 1) A baby pigeon.
- x) A baby goose.
- 2) A baby hen.

Comment: A baby goose is called a gosling and a baby hen is a chicken.

**Question 20**      **The plank has been painted with a special red paint made from residue from the mining industry. It comes from:**

- 1) Sala silver mine
- x) Falu copper mine
- 2) Glosöns goldmine

Comment: A long time ago, most buildings on farms and crofts were left unpainted. Only the rich could afford to paint their houses, often white or yellow. The copper mine in Falun in Dalarna *vitmålad knutar*.

**Question 21**      **Whose eggs are they?**

- 1) Wood pigeon.
- x) Crow.
- 2) Blommehöns hen.

Comment: The crow's egg has camouflage with patterns and dots, making it more difficult to see.

**Question 22**      **This house is built of brick. What are bricks made of?**

- 1) Clay
- x) Cement
- 2) Gravel