

ICELAND – Quiz Answers

1) Identify the international organisation of which Iceland is not a member.

A) European Union

Iceland applied for EU membership nine months after the 2008 financial crisis first hit, however, the application was withdrawn due to many reasons, such as the controversial benefits and costs of joining the organisation.

2) In which year did Iceland gain full independence from the Kingdom of Denmark?

C) Iceland gained full independence from the Kingdom of Denmark in 1944.

3) The biggest glacier in Iceland is:

A) “Vatnajökull”, which means “water glacier” in Iceland, has an area of about 7900 km².

4) Which university in Iceland was established in the early twentieth century, and open to both men and women from the beginning?

A) It's the University of Iceland (*Háskóli Íslands*). The other three universities were founded in recent decades.

5) The name of Iceland's parliament, in the Icelandic language, is:

A) Alþingi

Folketing is the Danish Parliament; Bessastaðir is the name of the presidential residency in Iceland; Viðey is an island near Reykjavík, the capital of the country.

6) What is the currency of Iceland nowadays?

D) Icelandic Króna

7) How many Christmas folklore figures, (or Santa Clauses), does Iceland have, according to local legends?

C) 13 - unlike much of the rest of Europe and North America, there are thirteen Christmas folk figures in Iceland, whose images may vary from the expectation of a normal Santa Claus. Their appearances, preferences, personalities, etc. are diverse.

8) What does “lopapeysa” mean in Icelandic?

C) Icelandic wool sweater. Literally, “lopa” means wool, and “peysa” sweater, in Icelandic.

9) Which of the following activities cannot be done in Iceland?

D) Polar bear watching. Normally, there are NO polar bears in Iceland, despite the name of the country suggesting vast ice sheets in its territory and a home to that species.

10) The last name of Björk, the Icelandic musician, is:

C) Guðmundsdóttir, although her last name is rarely used.

11) Which of these mammals is native to Iceland?

B) Arctic foxes are the only mammal native to Iceland. Compared to Icelandic sheepdogs, sheep and other domestic animals, the fox's habitats tend to be away from populated regions.

12) The best conditions for northern lights observation, including in Iceland, do not include:

B) Low temperature.

It has been proven that there is no relation between the appearance of northern lights and outside temperatures. If you wish to observe the aurora in Iceland, try to plan your trip between late September and early March, when the sun sets earlier and the sky is more likely to be dark enough!

13) What was the name of the volcano which erupted in 2010 and caused massive flight cancellations around Europe?

C) Eyjafjallajökull

14) Identify the news media service below which is not Icelandic.

D) Berlingske is a Danish news service.

15) The only part of Icelandic territory north of the Arctic Circle is:

C) Grimsey Island

The latitudes of Húsavík and Akureyri are not north enough, although both towns are in Northern Iceland.

16) What percentage of Iceland is covered by glaciers?

B. 11%

Explanation: There are 269 named glaciers in Iceland. Many of these ice caps lie above volcanos, including one of the largest glacier masses in Europe, Vatnajökull. Vatnajökull is equivalent to three times the size of Luxembourg or Rhode Island!

17) What bird is the national animal of Iceland?

C. Gyrfalcon

Explanation: Though ravens play a significant role in Icelandic folklore, and tourists flock to high sea cliffs to observe Iceland's puffins and razorbills, the national animal of Iceland is the gyrfalcon. The largest falcon species, the gyrfalcon has long been associated with royalty and is on the crest of the Icelandic Republic's coat of arms.

18) What percentage of Icelandic people claim to believe in elves or say they may exist?

D. More than 50%

Explanation: Much of Iceland's culture is rooted in magic, mythology and mystical beings. Elves are said to be most active during this time, as well as during Midsummer's Night, and people gather around bonfires to sing songs of the invisible huldufólk, who are thought to inhabit enchanted rocks and cliffs around the island.

19) A large part of which of these famous Jules Verne novels is set in Iceland?

B) Journey to the centre of the earth

20) What is Iceland's parliament known as?

C) The Althing