Laboratory Christmas Quiz: light relief from CPD questions

The Christmas quiz was very successful again last year and the NZIMLS Council has agreed to sponsor another quiz this year. As with last year it is a General Knowledge Quiz and the NZIMLS Council has agreed to award a single prize of $300 towards a laboratory Christmas function for the most correct answers. In addition, if there are two successful teams the NZIMLS Council has agreed to make two awards of $200. While individuals can also complete the quiz, the prize is only to a laboratory team entry to encourage teamwork. There are no CPD points for this quiz, and it is not discipline related. The NZIMLS Council have not participated in the question setting or have knowledge of the answers. An answer sheet is available on the NZIMLS website, and the quiz answers can be submitted electronically as for the CPD questions. The answers will be published on the NZIMLS website after the quiz closes, and the winner (s) is announced.

Closing date for all answers is **7 December 2026**, no late entries will be considered**.** Send all completed quiz answers with a **Laboratory name, Laboratory Team name** and **Contact person** to: mike.legge@nzimls.org.nz with subject heading: **Christmas Quiz**. Please indicate if the entry is a team or individual entry. No correspondence will be entered into relating to the quiz.

Name of Laboratory:

Contact email:

1. Which fruit is used to make the syrup vincotto?
   - ◯ Orange
   - ◯ Raspberry
   - ◯ Grapes
   - ◯ Strawberry

2. A person who studies shells is known as?
   - ◯ Calcologist
   - ◯ Conchologist
   - ◯ Chonchlosist
   - ◯ Calchonosist

3. Which Renaissance artist created the Pieta?
   - ◯ Leonardo da Vinci
   - ◯ Titan
   - ◯ Raphel
   - ◯ Michelangelo

4. Which pastry is a hybrid of a croissant and a doughnut?
   - ◯ Crookie
   - ◯ Cronut
   - ◯ Craffle
   - ◯ Cruftin

5. In Greek mythology who was Zeus's father?

- Kronus
- Dionysus
- Hermes
- Poseidon

6. The insecticide pyrethrum was originally derived from which of the following?

- Marigolds
- Geraniums
- Chrysanthemums
- Nasturtiums

7. The Titanic was built in which city shipyard?

- Belfast
- Glasgow
- Liverpool
- Newcastle

8. Which meat is used to make lardons?

- Lamb
- Beef
- Pork
- Goat

9. The ruins of the ancient Greek city of Pergamon are found in which modern country?

- Crete
- Lebanon
- Turkey
- Cyprus

10. The original traditional eyeliner was made from Kohl and comes from which element?

- Lead
- Zinc
- Tin
- Antimony

11. The ancient Greek athlete, Pheidippes, is believed to be the originator of which modern Olympic sport?

- Pentathlon
- Wrestling
- Marathon
- Boxing

12. Which red wine grape's name is thought to mean "little blackbird" in French?

- Merlot
- Syrah
- Shiraz
- Pinot noir

13. Which of the following did the Aztecs refer to as "love apple"?

- Guava
- Tomato
- Avocado
- Papaya

14. Which of the following countries has three capital cities?

- Bolivia
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- South Africa

15. The Caprera Canyon is located in.

- Mediterranean Sea
- Atlantic Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Caribbean Sea

16. The 1995 film "Clueless" was based on which Jane Austin novel?

- Lady Susan
- Persuasion
- Mansfield Park
- Emma

17. In the 13th century England, it was compulsory for all yeomen to learn what?

- Sword Fighting
- Animal husbandry
- Archery
- Blacksmithing

18. A poltroon is what?

- Warrior
- Jester
- Coward
- Ghost

19. Which tribe brought about the end of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE?

- Visigoths
- Huns
- Vandals
- Hercule

20. Which of the following animals' drinks salt water to hydrate?

- Whales
- Penguins
- Turtles
- Dolphins

21. The very first video to appear on YouTube was filmed where?

- Video shop
- Zoo
- Shopping Mall
- Street

22. The traditional name for a group of cheetahs is what?

- Chitty
- Clamour
- Charge
- Coalition

23. Where would you encounter gyrification?

- Athletics
- Brain
- Sailing
- Geology

24. Which of the following words is the most recent?

- Ditzy
- Doozy
- Neft
- Spiffy

25. Which of the following countries claims territories in both the Arctic and Antarctica?

- Canada
- Norway
- China
- Russia

26. In the nursery rhyme what did the old woman who lived in a shoe feed her kids?

- Gruel
- Bread crusts
- Meat
- Broth

27. The word “golf” is believed to come from which language?

- Basque
- Norse
- Breton
- Celtic

28. New Amsterdam became which American city?

- Atlantic City
- Detroit
- Boston
- New York

29. The “carat” was originally used as a unit of measure for what?

- Grain
- Gold
- Gems
- Silver

30. Of the six major animal groups, which one still contains dinosaur heritage?

- Reptiles
- Fish
- Birds
- Amphibians

31. Where is the Hermitage museum?

- Houston
- St Petersburg
- Paris
- Amsterdam

32. Which is the oldest of the following words?

- Coupon
- Logo
- Ticket
- Label

33. Which is the strongest piece on the Chess board?

- Pawn
- Queen
- Knight
- King

34. What is the national fruit of both India and Pakistan?

- Pineapple
- Guava
- Mango
- Papaya

35. What is a tolt?

- Tin object
- Horse gait
- A medieval dance
- An animal den

36. Which famous person created the first Paddington Bear stuffed toy?

- Bill Bailey
- Jeremy Clarkson
- Stephen Fry
- John Cleese

37. Which religion was responsible for creating the dog collar (Clerical Collar)?

- Roman Catholic
- Methodist
- Anglican
- Presbyterian

38. What is a peloton?

- Group of pelicans
- Result of a mud wrestling competition
- Group of cyclists
- Fast Basque ball game

39. The Malabar Coast of India is associated with which spice?

- All spice
- Garam masala
- Coriander
- Black pepper

40. Harold van Braunhut is famous for developing what?

- Sea monkeys
- Dishwashers
- Sunglasses
- Rockets

41. Kakorrhaphiophobic is the fear of which of the following?

- Failure
- Money
- Fog
- Marriage

42. In Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs what did the dwarfs mine?

- Diamonds and emeralds
- Rubies and sapphires
- Emeralds and sapphires
- Diamonds and rubies

43. How long is the Ninety Mile Beach?

- 52 km
- 144 km
- 36 km
- 88 km

44. If something is hebdomadal it occurs how frequently?

- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Fortnightly

45. Where is Gozo located?

- Portugal
- Indonesia
- Malta
- Central Africa

46. Which word is from Greenlandic?

- Anorak
- Macintosh
- Cagoule
- Parka

47. The Milankovitch cycle is which of the following?

- A minor metabolic pathway
- Timing of the moons orbit around the Earth
- A biological rhythm linked to seasons
- Changes in the Earth's orbit around the sun

48. "Cool Runnings" is a true comedy film about a bob Sleigh team from which country?

- Jamaca
- Nepal
- Barbados
- Bhutan

49. The middle of the 4% of New Zealand above land is where?

- Blenheim
- Nelson
- Wellington
- Greytown

50. Tea bags are believed to have been first used in which city?

- Boston
- Calcutta
- London
- Delhi

51. Which was the only country to put a dog into space?

- China
- America
- Russia
- India

52. In which country was the four-wheel drive tractor invented?

- Australia
- America
- New Zealand
- Britain

53. When Napolean Bonaparte went to live in France, which was the language he spoke?

- Bretan
- Corsican
- Sicilian
- Alsatian

54. The term “Brent Crude” originally referred to oil from where?

- Texas
- North Sea
- Venezuela
- Kuwait

55. Which religion has the four noble truths?

- Christianity
- Islam
- Sikhism
- Buddhism

56. Which planet is named after the Roman god of agriculture?

- Saturn
- Jupiter
- Earth
- Neptune

57. Which country has never been beaten by Brazil in a soccer match?

- Denmark
- Scotland
- Norway
- Ireland

58. In which year were the first Oscars awarded?

- 1946
- 1929
- 1934
- 1950

59. When was the first New Zealand fish and chip shop established?

- 1860
- 1903
- 1894
- 1910

60. Elizabeth Alexander is considered to be the world's first female what?

- Radio astronomer
- Economist
- Neurosurgeon
- Forensic scientist

