

April Trivia Questions and Answers

April in Paris

1. **A Parisian must-see on anyone's list, this museum is the home of the *Mona Lisa* and *Venus de Milo*.**

What is the **Louvre**? Home to priceless art treasures, the Louvre was established in 1793, but was built first as a royal fortress under Philip II in the 12th century.

2. **Since 1975, the Tour de France has ended at this main tree-lined historic avenue of Paris.**

What is the **Champs-Elysees**? The prestigious avenue has been called "The most beautiful avenue in the world" and dates back to 1670.

3. **Napoleon commissioned this 160-foot Paris landmark to celebrate his military victories.**

What is the **Arc de Triomphe**? Overlooking the Champs Elysees, its construction was begun by Napoleon and completed by Louis Philippe.

4. **The first endowed college of the University of Paris, it was founded by the chaplain of Louis IX in 1257.**

What is the Sorbonne? The University of Paris has often been referred to as the Sorbonne, although the **Collège de Sorbonne** was just one branch of the university itself.

5. **More than 30 bridges in Paris pass over this river.**

What is the **Seine**? **Pont Neuf** (ironically meaning "new bridge") is the oldest standing bridge in Paris, dating back to 1607.

6. **The people were seeking guns and gunpowder when they stormed this Paris landmark on July 14, 1789.**

What is the **Bastille**? A military parade goes down the Champs-Elysees every July 14 to celebrate the storming of the **fortress-prison**, a major event in the French Revolution.

"Tree"-via

7. **The bark of this type of oak is used for a variety of purposes, including bottle stoppers and bulletin boards.**

What is **cork**?

8. **The processed fruit of the plum tree, it also means to cut back branches to aid growth.**

What is **prune**?

9. **Varieties of this tree, noted for its dark, rich wood, include the West Indian and Honduras.**

What is **mahogany**? Mahogany is commonly used for making furniture and musical instruments. The world's supply of genuine mahogany today comes from Asia.

10. **The leaves of this tree are used in cold remedies and to feed koalas.**

What is **eucalyptus**? Its name is from the Greek for "well covered" and it covers Australia pretty well!

11. **Though this "syropy" tree is common in North America, most of its species are native to China.**

What is **maple**? There are around 129 species of maple that are widespread in both temperate and tropical regions of North Africa, Asia, Europe, and Central and North America. 99 species come from China.

12. **Native Americans made canoes up to 45 feet long from the bark of the paper type of this tree.**

What is **birch**? Also called the American White Birch and Canoe Birch, the **Paper Birch** is native to northern North America.

Just "B"-cause (all "B" words)

13. **For April, it's the diamond.**

What is **birthstone**?

14. **This type of piano is about 5 feet long.**
What is baby grand?
15. **This German composer and pianist studied under Joseph Haydn.**
Who is Beethoven?
16. **This South American country leads the world in coffee growing.**
What is Brazil? Vietnam is a far second in coffee production.
17. **This disease caused by the bacterium yersinia pestis can be spread by fleas from infected rats.**
What is the **bubonic plague**? The name is taken from the Greek word bubo, which means "swollen gland."
18. **This subfamily of mammals includes the water buffalo, bison, and yak.**
What is bovine?

Wax Poetic

19. **Longfellow wrote, "There was a little girl who had" one of these "right in the middle of her forehead."**
What is a curl? According to **Longfellow's son**, this was first sung to Longfellow's baby daughter. Do you know the rest? "When she was good/She was very good indeed/But when she was bad/She was horrid."
20. **In "Home Thoughts from Abroad," Browning wrote, "Oh to be in" this place, "now that April's there."**
What is England?
21. **In Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," it's the color of the wood two roads diverged in.**
What is yellow? Frost's **last lines** were "I took the one less traveled by/And that has made all the difference."
22. **This reclusive poet never named her poems, but wrote the lines "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant - Success in Circuit**

lies."

Who is Emily Dickinson? Few of Dickinson's poems were published before she died in 1886. Upon her death, Lavinia, Emily's younger sister, found nearly **1,800 poems!**

23. **Oliver Wendell Holmes began this poem, "Ay, tear her tattered ensign down! Long has it waved on high."**

What is "**Old Ironsides**"?

24. **In "Harlem," he asked, "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"**

Who is **Langston Hughes**. The title of Lorraine Hansberry's 1959 Broadway play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, comes from the poem "Harlem" (also known as "**A Dream Deferred**").

Stock Symbol Shopping

25. **The focus is on this department store: TGT.**

What is Target?

26. **For you do-it-yourselfers: HD.**

What is Home Depot?

27. **For DVDs: BBI.**

What is Blockbuster?

28. **Get your electronics here: RSH.**

What is Radio Shack?

29. **Maybe you prefer this electronics and appliance store: BBY.**

What is Best Buy?

30. **Just add one more "B" and you get sheets, towels, and more: BBBY.**

What is Bed Bath & Beyond?

All That Jazz

31. **As Duke Ellington wrote, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got" this.**

What is "that swing"? **Duke Ellington** composed the **song** in 1931, with lyrics by Irving Mills. Ellington and his orchestra worked as the house band at the Harlem nightclub the **Cotton Club** from 1927-1932.

32. **Before she was "Lady Day," her first recording sessions featured jazz legends Gene Krupa and Benny Goodman.**

Who is **Billie Holiday**? **Lester Young**, tenor saxophonist of the Count Basie Orchestra, nicknamed the jazz singer "Lady Day." "**God Bless the Child**," released by Holiday in 1942, was her biggest hit. This month, we celebrate "Lady Day's" birth anniversary (April 7, 1915).

33. **The instrument that "Satchmo" played.**

What is the trumpet? **Louis Armstrong**, also known as Pops, is regarded as the most influential jazz musician of all time. Armstrong reached number one on the pop charts with his vocal recording of "**Hello, Dolly!**" in 1964, knocking down The Beatles' top three spots. His version of the song was entered into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2001.

34. **The valve version of this instrument, used by some jazz musicians, has an immovable slide.**

What is trombone?

35. **Ella Fitzgerald is famed for this technique of singing made-up syllables.**

What is scat? In 1938, "The First Lady of Song" had her first smash hit with "**A-Tisket A-Tasket**," performed with the Chick Webb Orchestra. She was awarded 13 Grammys during her lifetime. This month, we celebrate her birth anniversary (April 25, 1917).

36. **Known as "The Velvet Fog," this jazz singer co-wrote the classic holiday song "The Christmas Song" (known as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire") in 1944.**

Who is **Mel Tormé**? The **Nat King Cole Trio** first recorded the song in 1946, however, Cole's 1961 recording is considered to be the

definitive version.