The Coffee Boffin Quiz

How much do you know about your daily caffeine fix?
Charge your guests a small entry fee and test their knowledge of the vital brew!

1. Which country is coffee believed to originate from?
   A. Colombia
   B. Kenya
   C. Ethiopia
   D. Brazil

2. Which of these countries doesn’t produce any variety of coffee?
   A. Uruguay
   B. Bolivia
   C. Ivory Coast
   D. China

3. Today, coffee shops are a common sight on every high street. But when did the first coffee shop open in the UK?
   A. 1552
   B. 1652
   C. 1752
   D. 1852

4. What plant disease devastated coffee farms throughout Central America during the harvest season of 2011-12?
   A. Coffee berry disease
   B. Coffee wilt disease
   C. Brown root rot
   D. Coffee leaf rust

5. Which country consumes the most coffee per capita?
   A. Finland
   B. Norway
   C. Canada
   D. Italy

6. A Q Grader is a highly trained, qualified Arabica coffee taster. Approximately how many Q Graders are there in the UK?
   A. 8
   B. 80
   C. 800
   D. 8000

7. Kopi Luwak, the world’s most expensive coffee, is:
   A. Picked during a full moon
   B. Brewed only with solid gold pots
   C. Grown at a higher altitude than any other bean
   D. Made from beans collected from the droppings of a wild animal

8. In 2001, Brazil created something to promote their coffee internationally. What was it?
   A. A coffee-scented postage stamp
   B. A passport stamp with a coffee bean border
   C. A commemorative coin to celebrate 150 years of the Brazilian coffee industry
   D. A banknote depicting a lady picking coffee beans

9. In 16th century Constantinople – modern-day Istanbul – which of these situations was grounds (pun intended!) for divorce?
   A. A wife drinking too much coffee
   B. A husband drinking too much coffee
   C. A wife not giving her husband enough coffee
   D. A husband not giving his wife enough coffee

10. Who famously drank coffee every morning their whole life?
    A. Florence Nightingale, British nurse
    B. Eleanor Roosevelt, US First Lady
    C. Creme Puff, world record holder for the oldest cat ever
    D. Randy Gardner, world record holder for the longest time spent awake

11. Which famous classical composer penned the “Coffee Cantata”?
    A. Bach
    B. Beethoven
    C. Mozart
    D. Handel

12. And which famous classical composer is said to have counted exactly sixty coffee beans per cup?
    A. Bach
    B. Beethoven
    C. Mozart
    D. Handel
Answers

1. c) Ethiopia.
Legend has it that an Ethiopian goat herder named Kaldi first discovered coffee when he noticed that after eating the berries from a certain tree, his goats became so energetic that they couldn’t sleep at night.

2. a) Uruguay.
Most of the world’s coffee is produced in Latin America, but Uruguay is one of the few Latin American countries that doesn’t produce it.

3. b) 1652.
The UK’s first coffee house was opened in Oxford, with the first London coffee house opening later the same year. These early establishments were largely the resort of educated, well-to-do gentlemen, who went there to show off their wit and intellectual talents.

4. d) Coffee leaf rust.
The epidemic that started in the 2011-12 harvest season affected 70% of crops in Central America, costing over US $3 billion in damages and lost income.

5. a) Finland.
Finns drink more coffee than anyone else in the world. In fact, coffee drinking in Finland is somewhat legally mandated, with many workers obliged by law to take two 10-minute coffee breaks at work per day.

6. b) 80.
Becoming a Q Grader isn’t an easy undertaking. It requires years of regular coffee tasting practice (known as “cupping”), six full days of intense training, and a grand total of 19 exams.

7. d) Made from beans collected from the droppings of a wild animal.
Yes… really! Produced mainly in Indonesia, Kopi Luwak is made from coffee beans that are partially digested and then excreted by a catlike creature called the Asian palm civet. A cup of it can sell for as much as £60.

8. a) A coffee-scented postage stamp.
At the time, Brazil was rapidly losing coffee sales to Colombia, and so the international coffee-scented stamp was designed to promote their own industry. The scent of the stamp was formulated to last for up to five years.

9. d) A husband not giving his wife enough coffee.
By the late 15th century, coffee had become deeply incorporated into Turkish culture. So much so, that a law was passed to give any woman the freedom to divorce her husband if he didn’t provide her with the necessary amount of coffee. Who knows, it might be a reason for some modern-day divorces too…

10. c) Creme Puff.
Creme Puff lived to the grand old age of 38, and many have wondered if it was anything to do with her unusual diet of turkey bacon, eggs, asparagus, broccoli… and coffee with cream. Before you say “of course not”, it’s worth knowing that her owner previously had another cat called Grampa—who lived till age 34 on exactly the same diet, and was the previous world record holder.

11. a) Bach.
Circa 1735, Johann Sebastian Bach penned “Schweigt stille, plaudert nicht,” also known as the “Coffee Cantata.” In the song, a father tells his daughter she doesn’t have any suitors because she drinks too much coffee. The daughter protests, claiming that giving up coffee would upset her so much she would become “like a dried-up piece of roast goat.”

12. b) Beethoven.
Young Beethoven endured severe punishments as a child and developed obsessive tendencies in later life as a result. One of his obsessions was coffee-drinking—historians often note that he would meticulously hand-count sixty coffee beans per cup.