

Tanach Trivia

By Rabbi Dovid Cohen

Grade Level: High School

Description:

Challenge your students and get them thinking about interesting and thought-provoking trivia from Tanach. There are “odd man out” and “what’s the connection” questions which encourage the use of higher-order thinking skills. This may be used as a mini-Yedios Klaliyos unit, as a review before a test or as a quick way to build basic knowledge about Tanach. Answer key included, which is a good thing since the trivia facts are not easy!.

Goals/Objectives:

Students will evaluate and compare different pieces of trivia and decide which doesn’t belong or what the connection between the facts is.

Instructions:

1. Use the trivia facts to enhance student’s knowledge of Tanach.
2. Have the students work through questions either in pairs or as a group effort of the class.

Variations:

- Liven up a siyum or other class party by challenging students to answer the trivia questions.
- Have students come up with their own trivia facts, based on the format of the trivia questions here.

Tanach Trivia-Odd One Out

On each line, state which name from Tanach does not belong, and why.
Careful - it can be tricky!

1. Noach, Mesushelach, Korach, Pinchas.
2. Zerach, Yaakov, Peretz, Avrohom.
3. Miriam, Yehoshua, Avrohom, Sarah.
4. Gedaliah, Vashti, Esther, Kayin.
5. Lemech, Nachor, Terach, Chanoch.
6. Besuel, Lavan, Avimelech, Haran.
7. Tamar, Ruth, Naomi, Na'amah.
8. Rachel, Rivkah, Tzilah, Peninah.
9. Gidon, Shimshon, Barak, Anan.
10. Reuven, Yosef, Yehudah, Dan, Gad.
11. Chidekel, Yarden, Pras, Gichon.
12. Koheles, Mishlei, Tehillim, Shir ha-Shirim.
13. Chizkiyahu, Yeshayahu, Yoshiyahu, Shlomo.
14. Karshinah, Nevuchadnetzar, Parshandasah, Belshatzar.
15. Nachum, Yonah, Yehoshua, Hoshea.

What's the Connection (I)?

What's the connection between each group of words ?
These are REALLY a challenge!

1. Noach, Moshe, Shaliach Tzibur (Chazan).
2. Charan, Canaan, Mitzrayim.
3. 4 birds, 2 chairs, a spider.
4. Chumashim, Megillos, fingers.
5. The son of Miriam, a dipped vegetable, the color of Tzitzis.
6. Earth, well, donkey.
7. The sea, the well, Devorah.
8. Kisui ha-Dam-covering up the blood, Shiluach ha-Kein-Sending away the mother bird, Gid ha-Nasheh-Refraining from eating the sciatic nerve.
9. Lion, wolf, deer, donkey.
10. 19, 64, 55, 136, 1342.

What's the Connection (II)?

Now try these!

1. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, Rabbi Elazar, Dovid, Shaul, Lot and his daughters.
2. Pesach Sheini, Lag ba-Omer, the day the manna began to fall in the desert, Rosh Chodesh Iyar.
3. Kedorla'omer, Lag ba-Omer, a sheep and an ox, the 4th chapter of tractate Bava Kamma.
4. Esther, Hagar, Rachel.
5. Yiskah, Hadassah, Re'uel, Ben Oni.
6. Yishai, Amram, Binyamin.
7. Parshas Beshalach, Megillas Ruth, Sefer Yehoshua, Megillas Esther.
8. The Ashrei prayer, Tehillim 119, Megillas Eichah.
9. Tehillim 119, Parshas Naso, tractate Bava Basra.
10. Sulphur, fire, hail, manna.
11. Lag ba-Omer, Erev Pesach, the eighth day of Chanukah.
12. Nov, Shiloh, Givon.

Answer Key
Odd One Out

1. Mesushelach. The others are names of Parshiyos in the Torah.
2. Avrohom. The others were all twins.
3. Miriam. All the others had their names changed in the course of their lives.
4. Esther. All the others were murdered.
5. Terach. In the book of Bereishis, there were 2 people named Lemech, 2 people named Nachor, 4 people called Chanoch, but only one Terach.
6. Avimelech. The rest were the fathers of our matriarchs: Besuel was the father of Rivkah, Lavan was the father of Rachel and Laya, and Haran was the father of Sarah.
7. Na'amah. The other 3 were widows, but Na'amah is not known to have been widowed.
8. Rivkah. She was Yitzchok's only wife, whereas the others were not exclusive wives: Rachel and Laya were both married to Yaakov; Tzilah and Adah were both "married" to Lot, and Peninah and Chanah were both the wives of Elkanah.
9. Anan. The others appear in the book of Shoftim.
10. Yehudah. The others were all firstborns - of their mothers.
11. Yarden. The others are rivers which flowed from the Garden of Eden.
12. Tehillim. The other 3 were written by King Shlomo.
13. Yeshayahu. The others were kings, but Yeshayahu was a prophet.
14. Belshatzar. The others are mentioned in Megillas Esther.
15. Yehoshua. The other 3 are prophets whose books are included in the Trei Asar.

Answer Key
What's the Connection (I) ?

1. All 3 have a Teivah: Noach had a Teivah (boat), Moshe had a Teivah (basket), and a Shaliach Tzibbur stands before the Teivah when he davens.
2. All these places were included in the travels of Avrohom.
3. All of them have 8 legs.
4. All of them are 5: 5 Chumashim, 5 Megillos, and 5 fingers.
5. The connection is the Pasuk which states each of these items: "*Chur Karpas, Utecheiles*" (Esther 1:6). Chur was Miriam's son, Karpas is the vegetable we dip on the Seder night, and Techeiles is the color that was used to make Tzitzes.
6. All of these had "mouths" which later opened: the earth opened its mouth to swallow Korach and his followers; the well had a "mouth" from which water poured forth for the Jews while they wandered in the desert; and Bil'am's donkey opened its mouth and began to speak while Bil'am was on his way to try to curse the Jews.
7. The connection is Shirah, Song. Each of these things had a song sung about it, in the Tanach: The Song of the Sea when the Red sea split; the Song of the Well, when it began to give forth water; and the Song of Devorah, the prophetess who led the Jewish People into battle.
8. These are all names of chapters in tractate Chullin.
9. The connection is to the 12 tribes: Yehudah is compared to a lion, Binyamin to a wolf, Naftali to a deer, and Yissachar to a donkey.
10. They have in common the number 10: each one of the numbers, if you add up their digits, equals 10:
 $1+9=10$, $6+4=10$, $5+5=10$, $1+3+6=10$, $1+3+4+2=10$.

Answer Key
What's the Connection (II) ?

1. All of them hid, at some point, in a cave.
2. All of them happen in the month of Iyar: Pesach Sheini is the 14th of Iyar; Lag ba-Omer is the 18th of Iyar; the manna began to fall on the 16th of Iyar, and Rosh Chodesh Iyar obviously takes place in Iyar.
3. The connection is 4 and 5: Kedorla'omer is one of the 4 kings who fought against the 5 kings; Lag ba-Omer is 4 weeks and 5 days into the Omer; For a stolen sheep or ox one must pay sums of 4 & 5, respectively; The fourth chapter of tractate Bava Kamma talks about an ox that gored 4 & 5 oxen.
4. All of these women were second wives to their husbands: Esther became Achashverosh's wife after Vashti, Hagar was Avrohom's wife after Sarah, and Rachel became Yaakov's wife after Laya.
5. These are all "second names" of people: Yiskah is Sarah, Hadassah is Esther, Re'uel is Yisro, and Ben Oni is Binyamin.
6. All of these people never sinned throughout their whole lives.
7. All of these begin with the word Vayehi: *Vayehi beshalach*, *Vayehi bimei sh'fot ha-shoftim*, *Vayehi acharei mos Moshe*, and *Vayehi bimei Achashverosh*.
8. All of these are organized according to the Aleph-Beis.
9. The connection is 176. In chapter 119 of Tehillim there are 176 verses; in Parshat Naso there are 176 verses; tractate Bava Basra finishes on page 176.
10. All of these things fell from the sky: sulphur and fire rained down on Sedom; hail fell on Mitzrayim, and manna fell in the desert.
11. The connection is fire, or burning: on Lag ba-Omer we make bonfires, on Erev Pesach we burn the chametz, and on the last day of Chanukah we burn the wicks that remained from the holiday.
12. All of these places housed the Mishkan.