

1.How did the band get their first manager?

2.How many songs did The Beatles record?

3.What does the band's name mean?

4.What music of the band was lost forever?

5.How did The Beatles start?

6.What sort of music did The Beatles play?

7.How did The Beatles conquer America?

A. The Fab Four, the famous Liverpool musical group commonly known as The Beatles, reached the peak of their popularity in the 1960s. But the real story began much earlier when Paul McCartney heard the skiffle country music played by John Lennon's group at St. Paul's church in Liverpool. McCartney was a brilliant guitarist, so they let him join the group at once.

B. The group changed its name several times, from Johnny and the Moondogs to Long John and the Silver Beatles and finally The Beatles. The short title is in itself a smart mixture of two words. The beat is a synonym for musical rhythm, while the beetles describe insects producing sounds using their shiny wings.

C. Lennon, Harrison, McCartney and Starr were the heart of The Beatles while the other members constantly changed. Many guitarists and drummers joined but finally left the group. The style changed too. When The Beatles left Britain to perform in Europe, they turned from folk to rock-n-roll to win over the public. They also played foreign music and composed their own songs.

D. Soon the group issued their first single, My Bonnie, which became popular in Liverpool. A customer once asked for it in a music shop, but there were no copies left. When Epstein, the shop owner, finally got the disc, he was surprised to hear a good quality song by the group that played in the club next to his shop. The same month he signed the first contract with The Beatles as their musical agent.

E. Although in 1963 the group issued more than three hundred thousand copies of their second album at home, they only broke the American market a year later. During their first tour to the USA the group was welcomed by thousands of fans at Kennedy airport in New York. For half a year The Beatles were touring the USA and were top of the charts.

F. During their USA tour The Beatles visited Elvis Presley. They talked a lot, played music and managed to record several priceless compositions. The reason why none of the songs have been issued is widely discussed today. No matter how hard musical agents tried to find the recordings, they failed. This is one of the secrets The Beatles left unrevealed.

| A | B | C | D | E | F |
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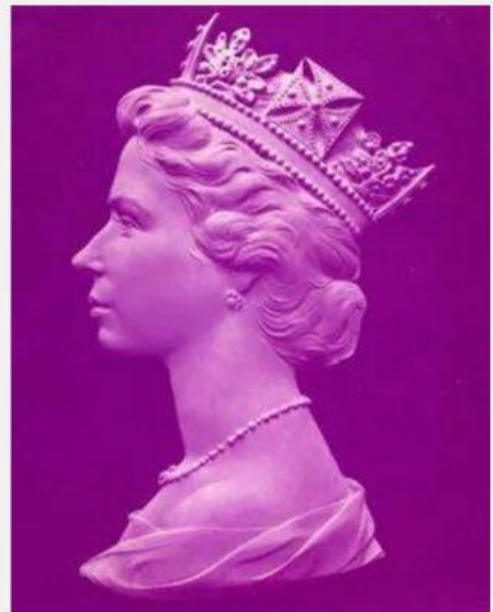
The first stamp

Great Britain was the first country in the world to issue a postage stamp. It was in 1840. Before stamps were invented, the person who received the letter had to pay for it. The postal cost was very expensive. To calculate the cost, the postal service calculated the distance the letter had travelled. The route was also important. People were unhappy with the postal service and asked to improve the situation.

The changes in Britain's national mail service started when an Englishman called Rowland Hill came up with the idea of pre-paying for letters with 'postage stamps'. He considered that it was fairer to make the sender pay for the letters.

There is a legend about how Rowland Hill thought up his invention. One morning, on his way to work, he met a very sad young lady. She had just refused to take the letter from the postman. Rowland Hill felt that this letter was a message from the girl's dear friend. He thought that she could not read the letter because she did not have the money to pay for its delivery.

He came up to the lady and the postman, paid the postal fee and handed the letter to the girl. To his great surprise, she informed him that she didn't want the letter. She had already known the news that was in the letter. The girl explained that because of the high postage cost, her dear friend coded the message in the address. The girl needed only to look at the address to understand the message. Then she gave back the letter to the postman without paying for it. Rowland Hill was astonished at their inventive plan, but this incident gave



him the idea that postage should be paid in advance.

Rowland Hill was a successful businessman who understood postal issues. In 1837 he presented the Post Office Reform Project to the government. He proposed to set up a single rate of one penny for a prepaid letter. According to the reform the sender had to buy a stamp for his letter for one penny.

Hill's Post Office Reform Project started in January 1840. A special competition for the first postage stamp was announced. There were a lot of proposals and designs. At last it was decided to use a portrait of Queen Victoria painted when she was just a 15-year-old princess.

The penny stamp known as the Penny Black presents a portrait of Queen Victoria, who was Queen at that time. The image stands against a black background. It's called the Penny Black because it cost a penny, and it is black. Nowadays the Penny Black is not rare — 68 million of them were printed — but if you have one in excellent condition it could be worth 1000 pounds.

On May 7, 1840, Britain placed on sale a second stamp, the Two-Penny Blue. Nowadays the United Kingdom is the only country that doesn't have its name on its stamps, usually they have only the monarch's head. The first person other than royalty to appear on a British stamp was William Shakespeare in 1964.

13. Before 1840 the postal cost depended on the distance the letter had covered.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

14. Rowland Hill had to use the postal services regularly.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

15. Rowland Hill saw that the girl paid the postman for a letter from her friend.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

16. The girl and her friend used a special code to communicate with each other.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

17. It was Rowland Hill's idea to put the image of the Queen on the stamp.

- 1) True

- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

18. The first stamp got its name due to its price and colour.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

19. The official name of the country is printed on every British stamp.

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

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| 20 | Angela and Branda were sitting in the school lobby. There _____ no one around, the corridors were quiet and there was plenty of time before the bell. | BE |
| 21 | _____ lesson was cancelled due to some unknown reason. The girls' classmates were happy to have an hour off and were having fun outside, in the school playground. | THEY |
| 22 | But Angela and Branda _____ to leave the cozy school lobby. | NOT WANT |
| 23 | It was nice and warm there and the girls _____ quietly. "Have you got any idea of what you want to do after school?" asked Branda. | CHAT |
| 24 | Angela _____ silent for a moment and then said: "No, I don't think so. And it makes me feel sort of nervous. | KEEP |
| 25 | Most of my friends _____ their choices. Linda wants to be a dentist. Jack wants to learn economics and has even chosen the university. | MAKE |
| 26 | Jill hesitates between a career in music and being a kindergarten teacher. She's great with _____ and they adore her, too. | CHILD |
| 27 | Last year, she _____ a summer job in a kids' vacation camp. | OFFER |
| 28 | It _____ like I'm the only one who doesn't know what to do after school. The decision is too difficult for me." | LOOK |

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| 29 | People talk a lot about diets and eating habits these days. They say _____ eating improves quality of life. | HEALTH |
|----|---|--------|

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| 30 | I've recently seen a _____ about the food pyramid we need to keep in mind when we design our menu. According to this pyramid, all necessary foods are divided into five groups. | PRESENT |
| 31 | The first group contains pasta, cereal, rice, and bread — the basic foods which people eat the most. In the second group, there are _____ vegetables and fruit. Milk, eggs, meat, and fish make the third group. | DIFFER |
| 32 | Sweets and fats are the smallest group and people should almost totally avoid eating these foods, which can be _____ to the body. | HARM |
| 33 | I think this approach to the diet is very _____. | REASON |
| 34 | However, my friends, who are vegetarians, _____. They think the third group should be avoided completely. | AGRE |