



Mermaid Riddles

28 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.



Easy riddles ★

- 1 My top half looks like a girl, but instead of legs I have a long, shimmering fish tail. I live under the sea. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 2 I'm just like a mermaid, with a fishy tail and a home under the waves, but I'm a boy. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 3 I used to be the home of a sea creature, but now I'm empty and lying on the sand. Hold me to your ear and you might "hear" the ocean. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 4 I grow slowly inside an oyster. I'm round, smooth and shiny, and people string me into necklaces. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 5 I have five arms and no bones, and if I lose an arm I can grow a new one. My name says I'm a fish, but I'm not. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 6 I'm a little fish with a head shaped like a horse's and a curly tail that grabs onto seaweed. In my family, the dad carries the babies. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 7 In old stories, mermaids sit on rocks with a mirror in one hand and me in the other, untangling their long hair. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 8 I'm a colorful underwater city, built very slowly by tiny animals. Clownfish, turtles and lots of other sea creatures live in me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 9 I'm a mermaid's playful friend. I click and whistle to talk, I jump out of the waves, and I breathe air through a hole on top of my head. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 10 How do mermaids call their friends?

ANSWER _____

11 Where do mermaids go to watch movies?

ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

12 In 1493, Christopher Columbus wrote that he saw three mermaids in the Caribbean, and that they were not as pretty as they look in paintings. What slow, gentle animal had he probably seen?

ANSWER _____

13 I'm a small bronze statue sitting on a rock in the harbor of Copenhagen, Denmark. I'm based on a fairy tale by a famous Danish writer. What am I?

ANSWER _____

14 In Greek myths, we sang so beautifully that sailors steered their ships onto the rocks to get closer. What were we called?

ANSWER _____

15 In stories from Scotland and Ireland, I'm a seal in the sea, but when I come ashore I take off my sealskin and look like a person. What am I?

ANSWER _____

16 I'm a spear with three sharp points, and the king of the sea carries me wherever he goes. What am I?

ANSWER _____

17 Walking on the beach, you find a little black leathery pouch with curly strings at each corner. People call it a "mermaid's purse". What is it really?

ANSWER _____

18 I started out as a broken bottle. Years of waves and sand rubbed my sharp edges smooth and made me frosty, and now beachcombers love finding me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19 A mermaid would need us to breathe underwater. Fish have us on each side of their head, and we pull oxygen out of the water. What are we?

ANSWER _____

20 In a 1989 animated movie, I'm a red-haired mermaid who trades my voice to a sea witch so I can have legs and walk on land. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21 A fish has me, a map has me, a piano has me, and a mermaid's tail is covered in me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

22 I have a bed that no one sleeps in and waves that never say hello. I'm salty, but no one ever added salt to me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

23 My name says I'm a fish, but I have no brain, no heart and no bones, and I can sting. What am I?

ANSWER _____

24 I come in and go out on the beach, usually twice a day, and the moon pulls on me. Mermaids would always know when I'm high. What am I?

ANSWER _____

25 A mermaid finds 24 pearls. She gives half to her sister, then gives a third of what's left to a crab. How many pearls does she keep?

ANSWER _____

26 Where does a mermaid keep her savings?

ANSWER _____

27 If you could drop Mount Everest into the deepest part of the ocean, would its peak poke out above the waves?

ANSWER _____

28 Two mermaids and two mermen sit on a rock. Each one of them has exactly one tail and two arms. A seagull lands among them. How many arms and tails are on the rock now, counting wings as arms?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Mermaid Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. A mermaid
2. A merman
3. A seashell
4. A pearl
5. A starfish (sea star)
6. A seahorse
7. A comb
8. A coral reef
9. A dolphin
10. On their shell phones
11. The dive-in
12. A manatee
13. The Little Mermaid statue
14. The Sirens
15. A selkie
16. A trident
17. The empty egg case of a skate, a ray or a shark
18. Sea glass
19. Gills
20. Ariel
21. Scales
22. The sea
23. A jellyfish
24. The tide
25. 8. Half of 24 is 12, and a third of 12 is 4, so she keeps $12 - 4 = 8$.
26. In a sandbank
27. No. The top would still be about 2 kilometers under water.
28. 10 arms and 5 tails. The four merfolk have 8 arms and 4 tails, and the seagull adds 2 wings and 1 tail.

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/mermaid-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.