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North Pole Riddles



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

Easy riddles ★

1. Find me on a globe by looking at the very top. I'm the point farthest north on the whole Earth, and stories say Santa lives here. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. In the stories, I live at the North Pole, wear a red suit, and travel around the whole world in a single night. Who am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. In the stories, I'm a small helper with pointy ears and a pointy hat. I spend the whole year building toys. Who am I?

   ANSWER _____

4. I have no wheels and no engine. I glide on two long runners, and on one night a year I carry a giant sack of presents through the sky. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. We have hooves and antlers, and in the stories we pull Santa through the sky. The real ones of us live on the cold lands around the Arctic. What are we?

   ANSWER _____

6. At the real North Pole there is no ground to stand on. What would be under your boots?

   ANSWER _____

7. Polar bears live in the Arctic, but this black and white bird that waddles and can't fly has never lived there. What is it?

   ANSWER _____

8. In the stories, I'm the busiest building at the North Pole. Inside me, hammers tap and paintbrushes swish, and I'm full of toys by December. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

9. I'm a very long piece of paper with names on it. Santa checks me twice, and every kid hopes to be on me. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

10. I'm glowing curtains of green and pink light that ripple across the dark Arctic sky. What am I?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. The North Pole isn't on any continent. It's in the middle of an ocean, the smallest ocean in the world. Which ocean is it?

ANSWER _____

12. You are standing exactly on the North Pole. You take one step forward. Which direction did you go?

ANSWER _____

13. At the North Pole, the sun rises in March and doesn't set again until September. How many sunrises does the North Pole get in a whole year?

ANSWER _____

14. Stand at the North Pole on a clear, dark night and look straight up. Which famous star is almost exactly above your head?

ANSWER _____

15. I'm a ship with a very strong hull. I ride up onto the frozen sea and my weight cracks a path through it. What am I?

ANSWER _____

16. In the stories, I'm married to the man in the red suit. I'm known for baking cookies and keeping the North Pole running. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

17. I have a face but no eyes, and a needle but no thread. Wherever you carry me, my needle swings around to point north. What am I?

ANSWER _____

18. I'm an Arctic whale with one long, twisted tusk that sticks out of my head like a unicorn's horn. It's really a tooth. What am I?

ANSWER _____

19. At the North Pole, the sun sets in September and doesn't come up again until March. So on Christmas Day at the real North Pole, is it light or dark at noon?

ANSWER _____

20. Both male and female reindeer grow me on their heads. I fall off once a year, and then a new set grows. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. A compass needle doesn't point exactly to the North Pole at the top of the globe. It points to a different spot in the Arctic that slowly moves from year to year. What is that spot called?

ANSWER _____

22. One pole is on sea ice floating at sea level. The other sits high up on a sheet of ice more than a mile thick, on top of land. Which pole is much colder?

ANSWER _____

23. In 1958, the first ship ever to reach the North Pole didn't sail across the top of the ice. It traveled underneath it. What kind of ship was it?

ANSWER _____

24. In 1911, this Norwegian explorer was the first person to reach the South Pole. In 1926, he flew over the North Pole in an airship called the Norge. Who was he?

ANSWER _____

25. A bear leaves her den and walks one mile south, then one mile east, then one mile north, and ends up right back at her den. What color is the bear?

ANSWER _____

26. The word "Arctic" comes from the old Greek word "arktos." It's the name of an animal, because a star pattern named after that animal shines in the northern sky. Which animal?

ANSWER _____

27. On a map, the North Pole is at 90 degrees north and the equator is at 0 degrees. What latitude is exactly halfway between them?

ANSWER _____

28. The lines that divide the world's time zones all run north and meet at the North Pole. If you walk in a tiny circle around the pole, how many time zones do you walk through?

ANSWER _____

29. I'm a small white seabird with a black cap. Every year I fly from the Arctic all the way to the Antarctic and back again, the longest trip of any animal. What am I?

ANSWER _____

30. What is found once in NORTH, once in POLE and twice in SNOWSHOE, but never in ARCTIC?

ANSWER _____

Answers

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

1. **The North Pole**
2. **Santa Claus**
3. **An elf**
4. **A sleigh**
5. **Reindeer**
6. **Ice.** The North Pole is covered by sea ice floating on the ocean.
7. **A penguin.** Wild penguins live in the southern half of the world.
8. **Santa's workshop**
9. **The nice list**
10. **The northern lights**
11. **The Arctic Ocean**
12. **South.** From the North Pole, every direction is south.
13. **One**
14. **The North Star.** It's also called Polaris.
15. **An icebreaker**
16. **Mrs.** Claus
17. **A compass**
18. **A narwhal**
19. **Dark.** The sun stays below the horizon all winter.
20. **Antlers**
21. **The magnetic north pole**
22. **The South Pole**
23. **A submarine.** It was the USS Nautilus.
24. **Roald Amundsen**
25. **White.** The den must be at the North Pole, so she's a polar bear.
26. **A bear**
27. **45 degrees north. 90 ÷ 2 = 45.**
28. **All of them**
29. **An Arctic tern**
30. **The letter O**

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