Riddlepedia Name _____ Date _____

Nutcracker Riddles



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

Easy riddles ★

1. I'm a wooden soldier with a painted uniform and a big set of teeth. Lift the lever on my back, pop a nut in my mouth and push down. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

2. I'm a nut's hard jacket. You have to break me open to get to the good part. When people explain something in very few words, they say they put it "in" me. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

3. I spin, leap and balance on the tips of my toes while the orchestra plays. Who am I?

   ANSWER _____

4. I'm a short, stiff skirt made of layers of net that sticks straight out from a dancer's waist. My name is the same sound twice. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

5. I wear a crown, but I have whiskers and a long tail. At midnight, I lead an army of squeakers against the toy soldiers. Who am I?

   ANSWER _____

6. In the story, when the clock strikes twelve, I grow taller and taller until I tower over the whole room. I'm covered in lights and ornaments. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

7. My shell is round and bumpy, and the nut inside is wrinkled like a tiny brain. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

8. After the battle is won, the wooden nutcracker turns into a handsome young man who is the son of a king. What is he?

   ANSWER _____

9. I'm a living nutcracker with a bushy tail. I crack acorns with my teeth and bury the extras for winter. What am I?

   ANSWER _____

10. In the ballet, we're dancers dressed in white who whirl through a wintry forest. In real life, we fall from the clouds, and each of us has six sides. What are we?

    ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

11. I'm a kind of dance that tells a whole story without a single spoken word, only music, costumes and movement. The Nutcracker is one of me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

12. I stand in front of the orchestra and wave a thin stick, but I never play a note. Every musician watches me. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

13. In the ballet, the Nutcracker is losing his fight with the Mouse King. Clara saves him by pulling something off her foot and throwing it. What does she throw?

ANSWER _____

14. I rule the Land of Sweets, and I dance to tinkling, bell-like music. I'm named after an old-fashioned candy. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

15. I have "nut" in my name, but I'm not a true nut. I'm related to peas and beans, and I grow in a pod under the ground. What am I?

ANSWER _____

16. I'm a shiny brown nut that grows inside a prickly green case. In winter, people roast me until I'm soft and sweet. What am I?

ANSWER _____

17. The Nutcracker has two famous waltzes, one for snowflakes and one for flowers. In a waltz, how many beats are in each bar of the music?

ANSWER _____

18. A nutcracker is a simple machine. You push on one end of a stiff bar and it presses hard on the nut near the other end. What is this kind of simple machine called?

ANSWER _____

19. We're the Nutcracker's army. We're small and stiff, we wear tall hats and carry tiny swords, and we come to life to fight the mice. What are we?

ANSWER _____

20. The story of the Nutcracker begins at a family party, when the tree is lit and the children are given their presents. On which night of the year does it happen?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★★

21. I'm the Russian composer who wrote the music for The Nutcracker. I also wrote the ballets Swan Lake and The Sleeping Beauty. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

22 The Nutcracker ballet was first performed in December 1892, in the city of St Petersburg. Which country is that in?

ANSWER _____

23 For the Sugar Plum Fairy's dance, the composer used a brand-new instrument he had found in Paris. It looks like a small piano, but its hammers hit metal bars and make a sound like tiny bells. What is it called?

ANSWER _____

24 The classic wooden nutcracker soldier comes from toy-making villages in the Ore Mountains, where carvers have made them since the 1800s. Which country are those villages in?

ANSWER _____

25 In the ballet, the girl who gets the nutcracker is usually called Clara. In the original story from 1816, she has a different name that starts with M. What is it?

ANSWER _____

26 I'm Clara's godfather, a clever clockmaker and toymaker. I arrive at the party with wonderful gifts, and I'm the one who gives her the nutcracker. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

27 In the original story, the Mouse King is no ordinary mouse. He has more than one head, each with its own little crown. How many heads does he have?

ANSWER _____

28 The story of the Nutcracker was written in 1816. The ballet was first performed in 1892. How many years passed between them?

ANSWER _____

29 In the Land of Sweets, three of the dances are named after things you can drink. Two of them are chocolate and coffee. What is the third?

ANSWER _____

30 The first full performance of The Nutcracker in the United States was on Christmas Eve in 1944, in a California city famous for a big red bridge. Which city?

ANSWER _____

Answers

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

1. **A nutcracker**
2. **A nutshell**
3. **A ballerina**
4. **A tutu**
5. **The Mouse King**
6. **The Christmas tree**
7. **A walnut**
8. **A prince**
9. **A squirrel**
10. **Snowflakes**
11. **Ballet**
12. **The conductor**
13. **Her slipper**
14. **The Sugar Plum Fairy.** A sugar plum was a small, round, hard candy with no plum in it at all.
15. **A peanut**
16. **A chestnut**
17. **Three**
18. **A lever**
19. **Toy soldiers**
20. **Christmas Eve**
21. **Tchaikovsky**
22. **Russia**
23. **The celesta**
24. **Germany**
25. **Marie**
26. **Drosselmeyer**
27. **Seven**
28. **76 years. 1892 – 1816 = 76.**
29. **Tea**
30. **San Francisco**

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