

KMEP Presents

One Hundred Classroom Riddles



Kivalliq Math Education Panel
Kivalliq School Operations

Acknowledgements

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For more riddles check out the following web resources:

- www.justriddlesandmore.com
- www.mindtrapgames.com
- iteslj.org/c/jokes-riddles.html
- www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/humour/riddles2.html
- www.teacherhelp.org/classroommgnt.htm

Preface

Riddles can be challenging, they can be corny, they can be fun, and they can be a part of your daily routine. They may be read out loud to your class or written on the black board. Such an activity can help to develop the following skills in your class:

- listening
- reading
- problem solving
- logical reasoning
- perseverance
- concentration
- sense of humour!

If students do not solve the riddle by the end of the day, ask them to take it home to their parents for help. Homework like this will get the whole family involved. An electronic version of this document can be found in the First Class System:

Kivalliq Conferences→Kivalliq Math→Math Month

Baker Lake
August 15, 2006

1. Super Shamu went for a walk without an umbrella. He did not wear a hat and he did not take refuge under a shelter; yet, not one hair on his head got wet. How was this possible?

Answer: It wasn't raining

2. Kadang, the famous shaman, had a water glass that was filled to the top. Holding the glass above his head he let it drop to the ground without spilling a single drop of water. How could Kadang manage to drop the glass from a height of over six feet and not spill any water?

Answer: The glass was not filled with water, it contained milk!

3. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answer: The word SHORT.

4. Captain Franklin was out for a walk when it started to rain. He did not have an umbrella and he wasn't wearing a hat. His clothes were soaked, yet not a hair on his head got wet. How could this happen?

Answer: Captain Franklin was completely bald, therefore there was no hair to get wet!

5. In what year did Christmas and New Year's fall in the same year?

Answer: Christmas and New Year's fall in the same year every year! New years at the beginning of the year and Christmas near the end.

6. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?

Answer: The letter M.

7. Nancy Nanuk was washing windows on a high-rise office building in Iqaluit when she slipped and fell off a sixty foot ladder onto the concrete sidewalk below. Incredibly, she did not injure herself in any way. How was this possible?

Answer: Nancy was on the bottom rung of the ladder when she slipped!

8. If an airplane carrying the Alaskan hockey team crashed directly on the border between the Canada and the United States, in which country would the survivors be buried?

Answer: Survivors are not buried...they survived!

9. How could you give someone \$63 using six bills and/or coins, without using looneys?

Answer: You would give them:

- 1 - \$50 bill*
- 1 - \$5 bill*
- 4 - \$2 coins (twoonies)*

10. If you were to take two apples from three apples, how many would you have?

Answer: You would have two apples because that is how many you took!

11. When can you add two to eleven and get one as the correct answer?

Answer: When you add two hours to eleven o'clock, you get one o'clock!

12. If someone said to you, "I will bet you \$1 that if you give me \$2, I will give you \$3 in return", would this be a good bet for you to take?

Answer: No. If you win the bet you lose one dollar! (If the person does not give you three dollars back after giving them two dollars, you will the bet of one dollar. Since you gave the person two dollars and received one dollar for winning the bet, you actually have lost one dollar.

13. Which would be worth more, a kilogram of \$10 pure gold coins or half a kilogram of \$20 pure gold coins; or would they be worth the same amount?

Answer: A kilogram of pure gold is always worth more than half a kilogram of pure gold.

14. Even if they are starving, the residents of Resolute Bay will never collect and eat a penguin's egg. Why not?

Answer: There are no penguins in Resolute Bay or anywhere in the arctic. Penguins are found only near the south pole.

15. Which weighs more: a kilogram of soap stone or a kilogram of arctic cotton?

Answer: They would both weigh the same! A kilogram is a kilogram no matter what you are weighing

16. There is an ancient invention still used in some parts of the world today that allows people to see through walls. What is it?

Answer: A window or igalaaq.

17. A group of arctic rangers were standing in formation facing due west. Their sergeant shouted at them: Right turn! About turn! (turn around) Left turn ! In which direction are the soldiers now facing?

Answer: The Rangers would now be facing east! They stared out facing west, then turned right to face north, then did an about turn to face south, then did a left turn to face east..

18. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the ukpik's egg are white" or, "The yolk of ukpik's the egg is white" ?

Answer: Both are incorrect because egg yolks are yellow not white.

19. How can it be that a man was once married to the sister of his widow?

Answer: The man married woman, then later married her sister, then he died, leaving his present wife as a widow. It is true that he was once married to his widow's sister.

20. If two hours ago, it was as long after one o'clock in the afternoon as it was before one o'clock in the morning, what time would it be now?

Answer: Nine o'clock. There are twelve hours between one o'clock in the morning and one o'clock in the afternoon. Half of this amount is six hours and so the midway point would be seven o'clock (one o'clock plus six hours or one o'clock take away six hours) If it were seven o'clock, two hours ago, the time would now be nine o'clock.

21. There is a town in the Kivalliq Region where 5% of all the people living in their have unlisted phone numbers. If you selected 100 names at random from the town's phone directory, on average, how many of these people selected would have unlisted phone numbers?

Answer: Zero! Unlisted numbers are not in the telephone directory, they are unlisted!

22. If 3 plums are worth 2 apples, how many apples are 24 plums worth?

Answer: 24 plums are worth 16 apples. Compare the plums: Twenty four is eight times larger three. So what value is eight times larger than two apples? Eight times two is sixteen apples.

23. How long will it take to cut a piece of soap stone into ten equal pieces if it takes one minute to make each cut?

Answer: It will take nine minutes. Once cut makes two pieces, two cuts makes three pieces, ...nine cuts makes ten pieces!

24. Mr. and Mrs. Tuktu have six daughters and each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the Tuktu family?

Answer: There are nine Tuktus in the family. Six girls, one boy, a mom, and a dad. Each girl shared the same brother!

25. If you divide thirty by a half and add ten, what is the answer?

Answer: Seventy! Thirty divided by one half is the same as thirty multiplied by two, which equals sixty. Sixty plus ten equals seventy.

26. What does no man want, yet no man wants to lose?

Answer: A bald head!

27. How many times can you subtract the number 5 from 25?

Answer: Once! After the first subtraction, you no longer have twenty five, you have twenty.

28. What is the closest relation that your father's sister's sister-in-law could be to you?

Answer: Your mother!!

29. Annie Okalik charges \$5.00 to cut a piece of soap stone into two. How much will Annie charge to cut a piece of soap stone into four pieces?

Answer: \$15. To make four pieces, requires Annie to make three cuts. At five dollars per cut, the total would be fifteen dollars.

30. Mr. and Mrs. Umingmak have five children. Half of them are boys. How is this possible?

Answer: All of the Umingmak children are boys!

31. If you saw your mirror image holding a letter 'd' in your left hand, what would you, in actuality, be doing?

Answer: You would be holding the letter "b" in your right hand.

32. What is at the beginning of eternity, the end of time, the beginning of every end, and the end of every place?

Answer: The letter "e"!

33. What five letter word does every Maani Ulujuk graduate pronounce wrong?

Answer: The word wrong!

34. How many three cent stamps are in a dozen?

Answer: Twelve! A dozen of anything is twelve.

35. A pair of twins is how many people?

Answer: Two! A twin is one person, so a pair of twins is two people.

36. I am a woman. If Sarah's daughter is my daughter's mother, what relationship am I to Sarah?

Answer: I am Sarah's daughter! (Substitute me for the phrase my daughter's mother. The statement would then read: If Sarah's daughter is me, what relationship am I to Sarah?)

37. Professor Tulugak has two coins which total 35 cents. Since one of the coins is not a dime, what are the two coins?

Answer: A quarter and a dime! One coin is not a dime, but the other coin is.

38. There is a cage at the Arviat Zoo that contains both ptarmigans and sik-siks. If there is a total of 30 eyes and 44 feet, how many of each are in the cage?

Answer: There are seven sik-siks and eight ptarmigans. (Since there are 30 eyes, there must be $30 \div 2 = 15$ animals in the cage. Algebra or trial and error should get you the correct number of each quite quickly.)

39. If nurse in charge gives you three pills and tells you to take pill every half hour, how long will they last?

Answer: One hour! You would take the first pill right away, then wait 30 minutes to take the second pill and wait an additional 30 minutes to take the third pill. The pills would be gone one hour after taking the first pill.

40. When Tuupik arrived at his cabin, the temperature was below freezing. In his cabin there was a newspaper, a fireplace, some kindling, and a kerosene lamp. What should Tuupik light first?

Answer: A match!

41. A wise man name T. Char, said he could put a bottle in the centre of a room and crawl into it. How is this possible?

Answer: T. Char put a bottle in the center of the room and then left the room. He then got down on his hands and knees and crawled back into the room!

42. If there are nine players on a baseball team and three strikes make an out and four balls make a walk, how many outs are there in an inning?

Answer: there are six out in each inning, three for each team.

43. Three women checked into a hotel room in Whale Cove for which they paid \$210. The next day, the manager glanced at the records and realized that the women had been overcharged. She gave the assistant \$5 to return to the three women. On the way to their room the assistant decided to keep \$2 for himself, and give each of the three women one dollar. The three women had now paid \$69 each, or a total of \$207. This, plus the \$2 the bellhop kept makes a total of \$209. What happened to the missing dollar?

Answer: Nothing it is still there. The hotel collected \$205, each of the three women received \$1 and the assistant kept \$2. $\$205 + \$3 + \$2 = \210

44. How many cubic meters of dirt are in a hole 6 meters long, 2 meters wide, and one meter deep?

Answer: Zero! A hole is the result of removing the dirt.

45. After the Nunavut became a territory in 1999, would a man be allowed to marry his widow's sister?

Answer: No. If the man had a widow, then he would be dead.

46. Tom and his sister Tam were passing the community hall when the Tom said, "My nephew is in there and I would like to stop and say hello. Since I don't have a nephew, I'll continue on and see you later, replied Tam. What relation is Tam to the mysterious nephew?

Answer: His mother.

47. It takes 6 men 6 days to dig 6 holes, how long will it take one man to dig 1/2 a hole?

Answer: A hole is a hole, there is no such thing as a half of a hole!

48. Alice has six pairs of pink socks and six pairs of purple socks in her drawer. In complete darkness, how many socks must she take from the drawer in order to be sure to get a pair that match?

Answer: Three. (if she only took two socks, she might get a pink one and a purple one. However, the third sock taken would have to be pink or purple and therefore create a match.

49. Alice has three pairs of pink gloves and three pairs of purple gloves in her drawer. In complete darkness, how many gloves must she take from the drawer in order to be sure to get a pair that match? This one is tougher!

Answer: Seven. She could possibly take out 3 pink left hand gloves and then 3 purple left hand gloves, the next one would have to be either a pink or purple right hand glove..

49. A mother, father and two children want to cross the Thelon River in a small boat that can only carry one adult or 2 kids at a time. Both kids are good rowers, but how can the whole family reach the other side of the Thelon River?

Answer: The children row across. One comes back. An adult goes over, and the remaining child comes back. Both children row across again, and one comes back. The other adult rows across and the child comes back. Finally, both children row across again.

50. Why can't you take a picture of your teacher with a hockey stick?

Answer: Hockey sticks cannot take pictures, you need a camera!

51. What is the largest possible number you can write using only 2 digits - just 2 digits, nothing else?

Answer: 9^9 or $9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 9$ or 387,420,489..

52. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain in the world?

Answer: Mount Everest! It was still the tallest, it just hadn't been discovered.

55. How many birth days does the average person have?

Answer: Only one. We all have many birthdays, but only one birth day we are only born once).

56. Someone at a party introduces you to your mother's only sister's husband's sister in law. He has no brothers. What do you call this lady?

Answer: His mother.

57. Two planes take off at the same exact moment. They are flying across the Arctic. One leaves Iqaluit and is flying to Rankin Inlet at 500 miles per hour. The other leaves Rankin Inlet and is flying to Iqaluit at only 450 miles per hour (because of a strong head wind). Which one will be closer to Rankin Inlet when they meet?

Answer: They will both be at the same place when they meet so therefore they will both be the same distance from Rankin Inlet when they meet!.

58. What English word can have 4 of its 5 letters removed and still retain its original pronunciation?

Answer: Queue

59. Paula's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

Answer: Paula!

60. How can a woman living in Coral Harbour, legally marry 4 men, without ever getting a divorce, be widowed, or becoming legally separated?

Answer: She is an ordained minister or a justice of the peace and is allowed to legally perform the marriage ceremony.

61. When do elephants have 8 feet?

Answer: When there are 2 of them.

62. What has 4 legs and only 1 foot?

Answer: A bed.

63. What is alive and has only 1 foot?

Answer: A snail!

64. What has 100 legs but cannot walk?

Answer: 50 pairs of pants!

65. What has 4 legs and flies? (Hint: it's not a dead caribou!)

Answer: Two pairs of pants!

66. What coin doubles in value when half is deducted?

Answer: A half dollar!

67. What is the difference between a new penny and an old quarter?

Answer: Twenty four cents!

68. If you can buy eight eggs for 26 cents, how many can you buy for a cent and a quarter?

Answer: Eight

69. Why should you never mention the number 288 in front of anyone?

Answer: Its two gross! (a gross equals 144)

70. Where can you buy a ruler that is 3 feet long?

Answer: At a yard sale!

71. What was born at the same time as the world, destined to live as long as the world, and yet is never five weeks old?

Answer: The moon!

72. What should you always keep and no one else wants?

Answer: Your temper!

73. What is too much for one, enough for two, but nothing at all for three?

Answer: A secret!

74. How many 9's between 1 and 100?

Answer: Twenty. (9, 19, 29, 39, 49, 59, 69, 79, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99)

75. If one looney is worth 100 cents, how much is half of one half of a looney worth?

Answer: Twenty five cents.

76. Which room has no door, no windows, no floor and no roof?

Answer: A mushroom!.

77. What starts with "e" ends with "e" and contains only one letter?

Answer: An envelope.

78. How many cookies can you eat on an empty stomach?

Answer: Only one, after which your stomach is no longer empty.

79. It happens once in a minute, twice in a week, and once in a year? What is it?

Answer: The letter "e".

80. How long did the Thirty Years War last?

Answer: Thirty years (1618-1648)

81. What goes up and never comes down?

Answer: Your age!

82. When things go wrong, what can you always count on?

Answer: Your fingers!

83. What did Wayne Gretzky become after his 10th year?

Answer: He became eleven!

84. Why are diapers like 100 dollar bills?

Answer: They both have to be changed!

85. What did one math book say to the other math book?

Answer: I have problems!

86. Which is correct: 9 and 5 is 13 OR 9 and 5 are 13?

Answer: Neither are correct. 9 plus 5 is 14.

88. What is a puppy after it is 7 months old?

Answer: 8 months old

89. What are two things people never eat before breakfast?

Answer: Lunch and supper

90. Q: What has a neck, but no head?

Answer: A bottle.

91. Where is the ocean the deepest?

Answer: On the bottom.

92. There was pair of twins and one married the other. How can be this?

Answer: One was a priest so he married the other"

93. How many legs does an aunt have?

Answer: Two, the same as an uncle.

94. What can't be used until it's broken?

Answer: An egg.

95. What do tigers have that no other animals have?

Answer: Baby tigers.

96. What gets wetter as it dries?

Answer: A towel

97. A father and his son were in a car accident. The father died. The son was taken to the hospital. The doctor came in and said: I can't do surgery on him, because he's my son. How is this possible?

Answer: The doctor was his mother

98. Which is faster, heat or cold?

Answer: Heat, because you can catch a cold.

99. Why are hockey rinks so cold?

Answer: Because there is a fan in every seat!

100. What's got a head and a tail, but no body?

Answer: A coin.