

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN QUIZ'MASS

20 natural history/sustainability quiz questions

- Which Ocean can Christmas Island be found in?
 - Indian
 - Atlantic
 - Pacific
- Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as the ancient Roman god whose Latin name was taken from the word for desire?
- Which plant beginning with the letter p is associated with Christmas?
- What are roasted on an open fire and also feature in a song?
- What is a name used for a male turkey?
 - Mike
 - Tom
 - Derek
- What aromatic flower buds are often used to decorate oranges or flavour a Christmas ham joint?
 - Lavender
 - Capers
 - Cloves
- Which traditional Christmas plant supposedly wards off demons?
- What tree is used during a wassailing ceremony?
 - Oak
 - Holly
 - Apple
- What hangs from the marble bannisters in Hogwarts Castle over Christmas?
 - Frosted fruits
 - Sparkling snowflakes
 - Everlasting icicles
- According to the GWP Group, how many uneaten mince pies are estimated to be thrown out each year?
 - 7 million
 - 23 million
 - 74 million
- Which dove is Europe's only long-distance migratory dove (spending a third of the year on their breeding grounds in Europe and the rest of the year in sub-Saharan West Africa)?
- According to WWF, how many adults receive unwanted gifts at Christmas?
 - About a quarter
 - Over a half
 - Over three quarters
- What is the UK's most wasted and thrown away food each year?
 - Turkey
 - Brussel Sprouts
 - Potatoes
- How many times did environmental charity Hubbub find that two out of five Christmas jumpers are worn over the Christmas period?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
- How much on average did each household in the UK spend on Christmas decorations, food and drink in 2019?
 - More than £200
 - More than £300
 - More than £400
- BusinessWaste.co.uk says that cooking the UK's Christmas sprouts alone uses enough energy to power a house for:
 - 2 years
 - 3 years
 - 4 years
- What percentage of Brits admit (according to Which?) to overbuying Christmas food and having leftovers?
 - 20%
 - 35%
 - 45%
- Which UK mammal doesn't hibernate at Christmas?
 - Grass snake
 - Bat
 - Water vole
- Because of the colour of their uniforms, which UK bird were Victorian postmen named after, resulting in card illustrations showing these birds delivering letters at Christmas?
- Santa's reindeer are female. True or false?



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1. a) Indian
2. Cupid
3. Poinsettia. The shape of the flower is thought to symbolise the Star of Bethlehem whilst the red leaves symbolise the blood of Christ.
4. Chestnuts. The song '[Chestnuts roasting on an open fire](#)' was first recorded by Nat King Cole.
5. b) Tom. A male turkey is often referred to in the UK and USA as a tom, gobbler, or stag.
6. c) Cloves
7. Mistletoe. This parasitic plant is commonly found in apple, lime and poplar trees. It's a Christmas tradition to kiss under mistletoe. They are an important winter food source for birds such as the mistle thrush, redwings and fieldfares.
8. c) Apple. The main purpose of wassailing is to perform a ceremony, which includes placing toasted bread soaked in cider on the tree, to protect it from evil and to encourage it to bear a plentiful fruit crop in the coming year.
9. c) Everlasting icicles. *'Everlasting icicles had been attached to the bannisters of the marble staircase; the usual twelve Christmas trees in the Great Hall were bedecked with everything from luminous holly berries to real, hooting, golden owls, and the suits of armour had all been bewitched to sing carols whenever anyone passed them.'* From Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire – Chapter 22. See the [Wizarding World](#) website for more Harry Potter Christmas quizzes.
10. c) 74 million. To put this into context they also say Brits eat 175 million mince pies which to give perspective means 1 million mince pie cases equate to 1 tonne of aluminium material. Read more facts on the [GWP Group](#) website.
11. Turtle dove. According to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the turtle dove is heading for extinction in the UK. Since the 1970s there has been a 98% drop in its population numbers, the largest decline of any UK species. The BTO says that if this trend continues, the turtle dove will disappear from the British countryside within the next two decades.
12. b) Over a half. On average there are about 70 million unwanted Christmas gifts bought each year. UK citizens spend £700 million on unwanted gifts. Try not to panic buy, when choosing a gift give yourself time to look for an item that will last a long time, it needn't cost lots of money either.
13. c) Potatoes. Potatoes are the most wasted food in the UK, with 1.6 billion thrown away every year, according to WRAP.
14. a) 1. They also found that one in three adults under 35 buys a new Christmas jumper every year and is one of the worst examples of fast fashion, now recognised as hugely damaging to the environment.
15. c) More than £400
16. b) 3 years. Try boiling your water in a kettle first as it uses less energy than a hob, or steam your sprouts on top of other vegetables. About 750 million individual Brussels sprouts are sold over Christmas in the UK – 25% of annual sprout sales are in the two weeks before Christmas.
17. c) 45%. Tip: Spend a bit of time planning what you'll realistically eat over the festive period. Make a list after checking what you have in your cupboards already. When you go shopping, stick to your list.
18. c) Water vole. Although they spend more time in their burrows at this time of year, they are still active.
19. Robin
20. True. In the northern hemisphere, both male and female deer grow antlers, but males have theirs in the summer to fight for breeding rights, losing them before winter. Females lose their antlers during the warmer summer months but have theirs in the winter, when Christmas occurs.

