

Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?

How many sides does a rhombus have?

Which planet is typically the brightest in the night sky?

In what month do we observe Columbus Day?

Stumped? Those are just a few of the questions that have challenged adult contestants on the TV quiz show *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?* Fox's hit show, hosted by the comedian Jeff Foxworthy, is making the grade with audiences. About 26.5 million viewers tuned in for the **premiere**, or first show, back in 2007. It was the biggest audience for a U.S. television premiere in more than eight years.

In each episode, adult contestants are quizzed on a series of questions from their elementary school days. The grown-ups tackle questions on various subjects, including math, science, geography, and social studies. The player's goal is to answer 10 questions plus a bonus correctly—and then take home \$1 million!

But the show has a twist: The players are not alone. Five fifth graders appear on each episode to lend a hand. The kids have their favorite subjects. Ten-year-old Kyle Collier from Los Angeles, California, is fond of math, reading and history.

The show offers up its share of embarrassment for the grown-ups. If a contestant drops out or answers incorrectly and isn't "saved" by a fifth grader, the player must face the camera and say, "I'm not smarter than a fifth grader." The program airs Fridays at 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What was unusual about the audience of 26.5 million people who watched the first show of "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader"?

- A Everyone was watching a show hosted by comedian Jeff Foxworthy.
- B The audience was made up of children and adults.
- C It was the biggest audience for a U.S. television premiere in years.
- D The audience could answer the same questions the contestants were answering.

2. Read these two sentences from the passage: "In each episode, adult contestants are quizzed on a series of questions from their elementary school days. The grown-ups tackle questions on various subjects, including math, science, geography, and social studies."

Which of the following best describes the purpose of these sentences?

- A The sentences compare this show with other shows.
- B The sentences explain what the show is about.
- C The sentences talk about what problem the show solves.
- D The sentences explain why the show is popular.

3. Which conclusion about "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" is supported by the passage?

- A It is a great TV show.
- B The show entertains people by showing kids may know more than adults.
- C This TV show will make Jeff Foxworthy a bigger star than he already is.
- D Quiz shows are more educational for kids than any other kind of show.

4. Read the following sentence: "The grown-ups tackle questions on various subjects, including math, science, geography, and social studies."

The word **tackle** most nearly means

- A begin
- B take away
- C speak frankly
- D attempt

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A The size of the show’s audience
- B How adults are much smarter than most fifth graders
- C What a new show on TV is all about
- D When the show will be on television

6. What might make an adult contestant embarrassed to be on the show?

7. Why might a fifth grader know the answer to questions that an adult doesn’t?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ all contestants are eligible to win \$1 million if they answer all the questions correctly, very few of them are expected to win that much.

- A Outside
- B Although
- C Since
- D Before

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In each episode, adult contestants are quizzed on a series of questions from their elementary school days.

Who? adult contestants

(are) What? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** fond: to like.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 920

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?” describes the Fox television show that quizzes adults on their knowledge of elementary-school information. The passage explains how the adults are paired with fifth graders, and tells what happens if the adult answers questions incorrectly.

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Suggested answer: If the adult doesn't answer questions correctly, and isn't "saved" by a fifth grader who knows the answer, he or she will have to look into the camera and say, "I'm not smarter than a fifth grader." [final paragraph]

7. Why might a fifth grader know the answer to questions that an adult doesn't?

Suggested answer: Students learn a great deal in fifth grade and are tested about what they have learned, so what they learn is fresh in their minds. Many adults learned the same things in fifth grade but they may forget some of those things as they grow older.

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(are) What? **quizzed on a series of questions from their elementary school days**

When? **in each episode**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** fond: to like.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.