

Do You Remember?

A Reminiscing Quiz for Seniors

Spark memories, stories, and smiles

Read each question aloud and encourage residents to share their memories. There are no wrong answers — every story is welcome!

Note: Suggested answers may vary depending on country or region.

1.

What did families gather around to listen to before television was in every home?

Suggested answers:

The radio

Follow-up: What was your favourite radio program? Did you listen to serials or music?

2.

What popular dance style had young people jiving and twisting in the 1950s?

Suggested answers:

Rock and roll / the jive / the twist

Follow-up: Did you ever go dancing? Where did you go?

3.

What small coin could buy a bag of lollies or sweets at the corner shop?

Suggested answers:

A penny / threepence / sixpence (answers may vary by country)

Follow-up: What was your favourite sweet from the corner shop?

4.

What did the milkman deliver to your doorstep each morning?

Suggested answers:

Milk — in glass bottles

Follow-up: Who remembers leaving the empty bottles out the night before?

5.

What game did children play in the street using a long length of rope?

Suggested answers:

Skipping / jump rope

6.

What was the name of a popular soap powder used for washing clothes?

Suggested answers:

Rinso / Persil / Omo / Fab (answers may vary by country)

Follow-up: Who remembers washday? What day of the week was it in your home?

7.

What did many families do on a Sunday afternoon for entertainment?

Suggested answers:

Go for a drive / visit relatives / have a roast dinner

Follow-up: Where did your family go on Sundays?



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8.

What was the name of a popular variety show families watched together on television?

Suggested answers:

The Ed Sullivan Show (USA) / Sunday Night at the London Palladium (UK) / In Melbourne Tonight (Australia)

Follow-up: Who do you remember watching on variety shows?

9.

What did you call the tradesperson who came to repair your shoes?

Suggested answers:

The cobbler / shoemaker

10.

What sweet treat was sold from a cart by a man ringing a bell?

Suggested answers:

Ice cream

Follow-up: What was your favourite flavour? Do you remember the price?

11.

What did children collect and swap with friends in the school playground?

Suggested answers:

Marbles / cigarette cards / stamps / trading cards

Follow-up: What did you collect as a child?

12.

What was a popular hairstyle for men in the 1950s, swept back with plenty of oil or cream?

Suggested answers:

The pompadour / quiff / Brylcreem look

13.

What household chore was traditionally done on a Monday in most homes?

Suggested answers:

Washing / laundry day

Follow-up: Did your mum have a washing routine? Do you remember the mangle or wringer?

14.

What was the name of the tradesperson who came around to sharpen your kitchen knives?

Suggested answers:

The knife grinder

15.

What popular card game did families often play around the kitchen table?

Suggested answers:

Snap / Rummy / Canasta / 500 (answers may vary)

Follow-up: What card games did your family play? Who always won?



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16.

What fizzy drink was often sold in a glass bottle with a marble inside to seal it?

Suggested answers:

Lemonade / ginger beer — in a Codd-neck bottle

17.

What toy might children pull along in the bath with a piece of string?

Suggested answers:

A toy boat

18.

What did the baker deliver fresh to your door each morning?

Suggested answers:

Bread

Follow-up: Do you remember the smell of fresh bread? Did you have a baker who delivered?

19.

What type of place did young people often go to for dancing and socialising on a Saturday night?

Suggested answers:

The dance hall / ballroom

Follow-up: Did you have a favourite dance hall? What music was playing?

20.

What was a popular Friday night treat for many families?

Suggested answers:

Fish and chips

Follow-up: Did you wrap them in newspaper? What did you put on yours?

21.

What was the name of the popular singer known as 'The King of Rock and Roll'?

Suggested answers:

Elvis Presley

Follow-up: Were you an Elvis fan? Do you remember where you were when you first heard him?

22.

What did children collect from the beach to take home as a souvenir?

Suggested answers:

Shells / pebbles / sea glass

23.

What was the name of a popular TV western series in the 1950s or 60s?

Suggested answers:

Gunsmoke / Bonanza / Rawhide / The Lone Ranger (answers may vary)

Follow-up: Did you watch westerns? Who was your favourite character?



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24.

What did you put in a piggy bank to save up for something special?

Suggested answers:

Coins / pennies

Follow-up: What were you saving up for as a child?

25.

What was a popular board game played with dice and counters that children loved?

Suggested answers:

Snakes and Ladders / Ludo / Draughts (answers may vary)

Follow-up: What board games did your family play on rainy days?

26.

What did families watch at the local cinema on a Saturday afternoon?

Suggested answers:

A matinee / double feature / the newsreel

Follow-up: Do you remember going to the pictures? What did you watch?

Facilitator tip: Use each answer as a springboard for conversation. Ask 'Do you remember that?' and let participants share their own stories. There is no time limit — the conversation is the activity.

Visit memorylanetherapy.com to access a huge library of free activities for seniors.

