

Riddle Me This

Have you ever heard someone ask, “What is black and white and red (read) all over? A newspaper!” Riddles can be fun ways to learn things and also make someone laugh. Today The Mini Page takes a look at riddles.

History of riddles

You might be wondering what a **riddle** is. According to Britannica, “The riddle is a form of guessing game that has been a part of the folklore of most cultures from ancient times.”

Riddles can be playful, thought-provoking and sometimes even very tricky. Riddles are designed to get you thinking in different ways and expand your mind. Most cultures and countries have their own examples of common riddles.

In ancient Greece, riddles were used to show how wise a person was. They were often presented as challenges and sources of entertainment back then.

In medieval times, one job that often required the use of riddles was that of a **court jester**. A jester’s duty was to entertain people, and they often used jokes, riddles, acting and dancing to do so.



Mini Fact:

Riddles have been used both to entertain and to learn throughout the ages.

Types of riddles

Riddles are often sorted into two types: a witty question and a descriptive riddle.

Witty questions often focus on clever plays on phrases, expressions or terms.

An example of a witty riddle is: **What is the center of gravity?** Answer: The letter “V.” In this case, the riddle is literal, because “V” really is in the center of the word.

Descriptive riddles often involve people, animals, objects and plants. People might think this type of riddle is simple to answer when they first hear it, but the actual solution is usually different from the person’s initial **hunch**, or guess.

An example of a descriptive riddle is, **I’m filled with keys but can’t open a lock. What am I?** Answer: A piano!

Riddles can have **double meanings**, which means they could have more than one explanation.



The Riddler

Known for appearing in comic books, movies and TV shows, the supervillain the Riddler made his debut in a 1948 comic. His abilities to solve and create puzzles make his character unique. He often leaves clues behind in the form of riddles for superheroes like Batman to solve.

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of riddles are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

BRAIN, CLEVER, CULTURE, ENTERTAIN, EXPRESSIONS, FAMILY, FUN, FRIENDS, GREECE, HUNCH, JESTER, JOKES, LAUGH, MEDIEVAL, NEWSPAPER, RIDDLES, TERMS, THINK, WORDS.

U W N I A R B K S D N E I R F
L G E R U T L U C S M R E T Z
D X K S N O I S S E R P X E N
H U N C H P R I D D L E S Q D
J R E V E L C D F A M I L Y N
R E P A P S W E N X S D R O W
F H G U A L M E D I E V A L T
U G R E E C E R B J O K E S O
N E N T E R T A I N T H I N K
W Y S J O J E S T E R B H K X



Cook’s Corner

Corny Crunches

You’ll need:

- 2 cups popcorn, popped
- 1 cup cornflakes, crushed
- 1 cup peanuts, chopped
- 1 (12-ounce) bag of butterscotch chips

What to do:

1. In large bowl, mix first three ingredients.
2. Melt butterscotch chips in a microwave oven on high for 1 1/2 minutes.
3. Pour melted butterscotch over corn mixture. Mix well.
4. Place spoonfuls of mixture on waxed paper.
5. Let dry and then store in a sealed container. Makes about 30.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. by yourself (5) _____
2. where a king and queen live (6) _____
3. game played on ice (6) _____
4. you blow them up (8) _____
5. Spider-Man actor Tom (7) _____
6. mom (6) _____
7. butterfly larva (11) _____

BAL	ONE	KEY	HER
TLE	LAND	CATE	HOC
ONS	HOL	CAS	RPI
AL	MOT	LO	LLAR

Answers: alone, castle, hockey, hollands, mother, caterpillar.



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Riddles

While often challenging, riddles can be a fun activity to share with friends and family members. Here are a few for you to try out:

What can’t talk but will reply when spoken to?
Answer: An echo!

I have a tail and a head but no body. What am I?
Answer: A coin!

I go all around the world but never leave the corner. What am I?
Answer: A stamp.

I am always running but never get tired or hot. What am I?
Answer: A refrigerator!

What has to be broken before you can use it?
Answer: An egg!

What begins with “T,” ends with “T,” and has “T” in it?
Answer: A teapot!

What has words but never speaks?
Answer: A book!

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPRiddles

At the library:

- “Fun Riddles & Trick Questions For Kids and Family” by Riddleland
- “The Big Book of Tricky Riddles for Kids” by Corinne Schmitt

Mini Jokes



Diana: What goes up and never comes down?

Dante: Your age!

Eco Note



The massive amount of floating pumice spewed in August from an undersea volcano in southern Japan’s remote Ogasawara island chain has damaged boats and ports as far north as Okinawa and Kyushu. Japanese scientists have begun to analyze the composition of the pumice and the ocean currents that carried it far from the eruption. An eruption of the same volcano in 1986 also carried pumice stones to Okinawa.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles you can make riddles about.

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