

Question Sheet: The Great Christmas Ballet Quiz!

There's nothing like a ballet to get us in the Christmas spirit! Test your knowledge on some ballets with a festive, wintry theme...

1) The music from *The Nutcracker* was written by which composer?

- a) Mozart b) Tchaikovsky c) Bach d) Prokofiev

2) *The Nutcracker* was first performed in which year?

- a) 1792 b) 1892 c) 1992 d) 2002

3) Who is the villain in *The Nutcracker*?

- a) The Rat King b) The Mouse Queen c) The Rat Queen d) The Mouse King

4) What is the name of the young girl who stars in *The Nutcracker*?

- a) Claudia b) Carla c) Chloe d) Clara

5) What is the name of the chiming, piano-like instrument played in *The Nutcracker's* 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'?

- a) Celesta b) Organ c) Melodia d) Harpsichord

6) The ballet, *The Snow Queen*, is based on the children's fairy tale written by which famous storyteller?

- a) Roald Dahl b) J. K. Rowling c) Hans Christian Andersen d) Beatrix Potter

7) Which popular Disney movie is loosely based on the story of *The Snow Queen*?

- a) Snow White b) Frozen c) A Christmas Carol d) Cinderella



8) **The Winter's Tale, a ballet based on Shakespeare's romance, was created for which world-famous ballet company?**

- a) The Royal Ballet b) The Bolshoi Ballet c) New York City Ballet d) Paris Opera Ballet

9) **Which ballet tells the sad story of a poor young child trying to survive out on the streets one freezing night?**

- a) The Little Princess b) The Little Match Girl c) The Little Drummer Boy d) The Little Mermaid

10) ***The Snowman* is a magical festive ballet for children. What is the name of the well-known song originally from the film, *The Snowman*?**

- a) Jingle Bells b) Frosty the Snowman c) Walking in the Air d) Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree

Well done for completing the quiz! The answers to the questions are on the next page!

Images 1, 2 and 3: Wikipedia. Image 4: Myriams-Fotos from Pixabay.



Answer Sheet: The Great Christmas Ballet Quiz!

1) **The music from *The Nutcracker* was written by which composer?**

Tchaikovsky is a Russian composer who wrote music for three well-known ballets: *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

2) ***The Nutcracker* was first performed in which year?**

It was first performed in December **1892**, in St Petersburg, Russia.

3) **Who is the villain in *The Nutcracker*?**

In the ballet, the Nutcracker prince defeats the evil **Mouse King** and his mouse army in a fearsome battle.

4) **What is the name of the young girl who stars in *The Nutcracker*?**

In some ballet companies, **Clara** is played by a young girl, while in others, she is played by a professional dancer. Sometimes two dancers of different ages play the same character.

5) **What is the name of the chiming, piano-like instrument played in *The Nutcracker's* 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy'?**

The **celesta** is a small keyboard instrument that makes a music-box sound, perfect for the Sugar Plum Fairy's delicate dance.

6) **The ballet, *The Snow Queen*, is based on the children's fairy tale written by which famous storyteller?**

Hans Christian Andersen was a 19th-century Danish author who wrote many famous children's fairy tales, including *The Little Mermaid* and *The Ugly Duckling*.

7) **Which popular Disney movie is loosely based on the story of *The Snow Queen*?**

Similar to the movie **Frozen**, *The Snow Queen* tells the story of a magical queen who turns everything to ice.

8) ***The Winter's Tale*, a ballet based on Shakespeare's romance, was created for which world-famous ballet company?**

The Winter's Tale was first performed by **The Royal Ballet** in 2014, and was choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon.

9) **Which ballet tells the sad story of a poor young child trying to survive out on the streets one freezing night?**

Based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen, ***The Little Match Girl*** is a ballet about a young girl's hopes and dreams as she tries to sell matches out on the wintry streets.

10) ***The Snowman* is a magical festive ballet for children. What is the name of the well-known song originally from the film, *The Snowman*?**

The song 'Walking in the Air' featured in the short film, ***The Snowman***. It was first shown on TV in 1982 and is based on the book by Raymond Briggs.