Dog Days Trivia ~ Haley Burress, MS

All of the trivia questions below are related to dogs or to the hot "dog days of summer."

How-to & Tips:

• Write DOG DAYS on a blackboard or flip chart to remind people what the trivia questions are all about.

• Play like regular trivia as a group or in teams. The "host" reads the clue and the group/team tries to come up with the answer. Keep score and award points if you want.

• Pause if you want and discuss a particular question or ask a follow-up question. (Some examples are below.) You might find that the activity goes in another direction.

• If people are having trouble answering the questions, give clues. Or, if you want, give a couple of possible answers to choose from.

• Bring in some props related to the activity - a dog leash, dog bowl, pair of flip-flops, sunglasses, etc.

A Little About Dogs

1. True or false? Puppies teethe like babies. (True) **Discussion Break**: Puppy teeth usually come in when they are about 3 weeks old and the teeth are very sharp. Adult teeth usually come in when the puppy is 4-7 months old. During this time, puppies usually chew on things a lot, just like babies sometimes do when they are teething. How do you know when babies are teething? What are some good tips to help teething babies who are fussy? Do you think any of those remedies would work on teething puppies?

2. What is the name of the famous collie on television that knew when Timmy fell down the well? (Lassie) **Fun Fact**: Lassie was originally played by a collie named Pal. Since then, there have
been 10 generations of Lassie dogs, all descendents of Pal.

3. Do dogs have a better sense of smell or sense of taste? (Smell. Dogs actually don’t have a great sense of taste. It is the smell of the food that attracts them to it.)

4. The Iditarod race, where dog teams pull a sled from Anchorage to Nome, takes place in what U.S. state? (Alaska) Fun Fact: Dog sledding is sometimes called “mushing.” Mushing comes from the French word marche, which means “march” or “run.”

5. What do you use to keep a dog close to you when you take it on a walk? (Leash)

6. What is one of the tricks people like to teach their dogs? (Sit, shake hands, roll over)

7. How do you play fetch with a dog? (Throw something that the dog can chase after and bring back to you.) Discussion Break: Playing games with your dog is really important for a few reasons. First, it helps the dog get lots of exercise. Second, it exercises the dog’s brain. Keeping a dog exercised and mentally stimulated means less bad behaviors. Can you name some bad dog behaviors?

8. What are some good dog names? Let’s see how many we can list together.

9. If the wife of the president of the United States is called "First Lady," what do you think the dog of the president is called? (First Dog) Fun Fact: Dogs in the White House have been around since the first president. Currently, Barack Obama has Bo, a Portuguese Water Dog. There have been lots of “famous” dogs in the White House like Checkers, President Nixon’s pooch, and Buddy, President Clinton’s dog. Not a dog lover? That’s okay – there have been plenty of other animals in the White House too, like Socks, the cat of President Clinton and Poll, President Andrew Jackson’s parrot (he was taught how to swear!).

10. Can you take a guess as to how many dogs survived the
sinking of the *Titanic*? (There were two - a Pomeranian and a Pekinese)

11. What are the really hot days in late July and August sometimes called? (Dog days of summer) **Fun Fact:** The dog days of summer run from July 3 to August 11 and are the 40 hottest days of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It is during this time that Sirius, the Dog Star, is present. In ancient times, folks believed that this star, in conjunction with the sun, caused the sizzling heat.

12. How does this song go? "How much is that ______________ (doggie in the window, the one with the waggly tail)?"

13. Would you say that a Golden Retriever is a big dog or a small dog? (A big dog)

14. How about a Chihuahua? (a small dog)

**A Little About Dog Days**

1. Summer starts in what month? (June, usually around June 21)

2. What are some ways to keep cool on a hot summer day? (Drink cold beverage, turn on the air conditioning, go swimming, etc.)

3. What do you use in an ice cream maker to melt the ice? (Salt) **Discussion Break:** The salt melts the ice and lowers the temperature. That is what freezes the ice cream. Did you ever make homemade ice cream?

4. Finish these song lyrics: I scream, you scream, ________________ (we all scream for ice cream)!

5. If you were going to cook steaks outdoors, what might you cook them on? (Grill) **Discussion Break:** How would you season the steaks? Would you use BBQ sauce? What other things might you cook on a grill?

6. If you were sitting outdoors on a hot summer evening you might
see little flashes of light. What would they be? (Lightning bugs) **Discussion Break:** Did you ever catch lightning bugs in a jar?

8. When children play hide-and-seek, one player counts to 10 and then says, _______________ ("Ready or not, here I come!").

9. What is the call when a child comes out of hiding? ("Olly, olly, oxen free!") **Fun Fact:** Do you know where the phrase "olly, olly, oxen free" came from? It is thought to have originated with the phrase "all ye, all ye 'outs' in free." It is similar to a German phrase that translates to "everyone, everyone is also free."

10. What would you need if you were going swimming and wanted to see under the water and not get water in your eyes? (Goggles)

11. In the song, what color was the bikini that was "itsy bitsy, teenie weenie"? (Yellow)

12. What do you call frozen flavored water on a stick? (Popsicle) **Fun Fact:** Frank Epperson had his first frozen ice on a stick at age 11 and later went on to patent the popsicle.

13. What chemical is added to swimming pools to keep the water clean? (chlorine)

14. True or false? Air conditioning was invented by blowing air over tubes full of cool water. (True) **Discussion Break:** Even though air conditioning was invented in the early 1900s, not everyone had air conditioning growing up. How did your family stay cool on hot days if you didn't have air conditioning?

15. Was it in the 1930s, 1940s, or 1950s when women began wearing Bermuda shorts? (1950s)

16. When it is hot and there is a lot of water vapor in the air, you might say that it is very __________ (humid, sticky, muggy). **Discussion Break:** Some folks say that places that are hot and dry (like the desert) don't seem as hot as places that are hot and humid (like Florida). Do you agree?
17. What should you drink lots of on a hot summer day? (Water) **Fun Fact:** Eating watermelon and cucumber is also good for you, as they are mostly water. Yum!