

### SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER?

Have you ever watched the show “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?” If you like game shows and trivia, or you just want to brush up on knowledge, they are fun to watch.

I love testing my knowledge; however, I do not consider myself a “genius.” I also like playing “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?” on Facebook. Believe it or not, it is really a challenge. Most days I find that I am not smarter than a fifth grader.

I don’t know if I have forgotten all the knowledge I garnered in the fifth grade, or if fifth graders are just smarter today.

Of course we didn’t have the Internet or computers growing up, but I tip my hat to the schools and teachers if fifth graders know the correct answers to some of the questions asked on this game.

I usually play just one game of “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?” per day. After I get on the game site, I find myself tensing up as I look on the side at my competitors. You can see their pictures and names and it appears as some of them may be from different countries.

Ding ding! Time to play the game. The first question comes across the screen. “El Niño is a weather phenomenon which occurs in what ocean?” Now, it gives me four multiple choices.

I sit and ponder and someone has already answered and they get 1,000 points for being the fastest.

I guess the Indian Ocean. (WRONG) OK. Do you know the answer?

Time for question #2. This one is a big math question which takes me quite a while to read. Other players are already buzzing in as I scurry for the correct answer. Yahooo! I got it right, but so did everyone else.

Since I have been playing this game, I have only been “smarter than a fifth grader” perhaps four times. I am so happy this is not real money I am playing for.

My next step to find out if I just may be smarter than a fifth grader was to take the online test. This was a test of 15 questions and I missed four and got a score of 60 percent!

One of the questions I missed was this, “Which layer of earth do humans actually live on?”

The choices of answers were: (a) the core; (b) the crust; (c) the mantle and (d) none of the above. Do you know the answer?

Another question was, “What was the author Mark Twain’s real name?” This was not a multiple choice, so I just could not think of the right answer. Do you know what it is?

One more question was this one, “\_\_\_\_\_ established a colony in Maryland where they could worship freely. The choices were: (a) William Penn and the Quakers; (b) Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson; (c) George Calvert and the Catholics; or (d) John Winthrop and the Puritans.

Naturally, I guessed William Penn, which was wrong. Do you know the answer? I should have known Penn and his followers were from Pennsylvania.

I find these games interesting and thought provoking. I guess over the years, we all tend to forget what we knew back in grade school.

I do believe that students today are being taught and are learning a lot more than my era did. So, am I smarter than a fifth grader?" Hmmmm. Maybe you should decide that.

Do you like trivia games? Do you think you are smarter than a fifth grader? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.

(FYI – El Niño occurs in the Pacific Ocean; humans live on the earth's crust; Mark Twain was born Samuel Clemens; and Maryland was established by George Calvert and the Catholics. But if you're smarter than a fifth grader, you already knew that!)