

50 Degrees of Kevin Bacon

According to Wikipedia:

Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon is a parlor game based on the "six degrees of separation" concept, which posits that any two people on Earth are, on average, about six acquaintance links apart. That idea eventually morphed into this parlor game, wherein movie buffs challenge each other to find the shortest path between an arbitrary actor and veteran Hollywood character actor Kevin Bacon. It rests on the assumption that any individual involved in the Hollywood, California film industry can be linked through his or her film roles to Kevin Bacon within six steps.

Well, here at Moose & Squirrel, we never do things half-assed (well, almost never. OK, fairly often, but not this time). So, instead of a measly six degrees, we're going to do 50 degrees. We're also going to change it up a bit. Instead of linking to Kevin Bacon by matching people who appeared in his films, we're going to string together some questions by common elements in the questions. Think of it as stream-of-consciousness trivia. Let's get started!

1. In one of Kevin Bacon's first film roles, he appeared as Chip Diller in what film?
2. At the end of that film, most of the future fates of the main characters are revealed. Which character goes on to be a U.S. Senator?
3. Name the two U.S. Senators representing the state of Colorado (1/2 point for each).
4. Like many places in the U.S., Colorado's name comes from Spanish (for "red-colored"). What U.S. city comes from Spanish for "The Meadows"?
5. Tim Meadows was one of the longest-standing cast members of *Saturday Night Live*. There, he had one signature character, and later starred in a film flop that featured that character. Name the character (real name or nickname is OK).
6. When *SNL* premiered, it was initially NBC's *SN*, because there was a competing late night program already called "*Saturday Night Live*". Who hosted that show?
7. *Late Night with David Letterman* premiered in 1982 on NBC. Who was his first guest?
8. Christopher Guest is the creative genius behind such "mockumentaries" as *This Is Spinal Tap* and *A Mighty Wind*. Which of his films is a parody of local community theater productions?
9. Speaking of mighty winds, hurricanes have been given human names since 1953, but all of the names were female for years. What was the first hurricane named with a male name?

10. Name the two members of the University of Miami Hurricanes to win the Heisman Trophy (1/2 point for each).
11. There's another Miami University, up the road from us in Oxford, Ohio. While not a national powerhouse in football, it does have a claim to fame in the sport, which led to what nickname being ascribed to the school?
12. It's pretty well known that Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, and that Cambridge is the second-oldest. What university is the third-oldest?
13. Prince William is the current Duke of Cambridge. What is the peerage title of his grandfather, Prince Philip?
14. Prince Fielder and his father Cecil are the only father-son combination in baseball history where both members accomplished what feat?
15. *Beany and Cecil* was an early puppet (and later animated) TV show, featuring the boy Beany, and his friend Cecil, the Sea-sick Sea Serpent. The villain of the show was called Dishonest John, and he carried calling cards that advertised what (and inspired an AC/DC song over a decade later)?
16. The "War of the Currents" pitting AC power (championed by Nikola Tesla and George Westinghouse) versus DC power (championed by Thomas Edison) was, of course, eventually won by AC, despite the best efforts of Edison. Edison hired an engineer named Harold Brown to develop a device to demonstrate the dangers of AC power. What was this device?
17. In the 2006 Christopher Nolan film, *The Prestige*, Nikola Tesla is portrayed by whom?
18. Nolan Bushnell is best known as the founder of Atari, and the inventor of *Pong*. What other business venture did he found in 1977, that remains in business to this day?
19. In Ping Pong (OK, purists, Table Tennis), there are two basic types of grips used by competitive players. One, favored by Western players, is called the "shakehands" grip. What is the common name of the grip more commonly used by Chinese players?
20. Despite the name, Chinese Checkers is neither Chinese, nor a variety of checkers. In what country did the game really originate, in 1892?
21. The fast food restaurant chain known as Checkers in some markets, is known as what in the rest?
22. The 1971 wargame *Chainmail* contained rules that eventually were developed into what much more popular game?
23. In the 1983 movie *WarGames*, what is the backdoor password that Matthew Broderick's character uses to access the NORAD computer?
24. Matthew Broderick has won two Tony Awards, one for Best Featured Actor in a Play, and one for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. Name both productions (1/2 point for each).
25. Tony the Tiger, the cartoon spokes-cat for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes, was voiced for many years by what actor?

26. In 2010, CBS college basketball analyst Clark Kellogg played (and lost) a game of H.O.R.S.E. versus what man famous for his non-sports activities?
27. Of course, of course, Roy Rogers' horse was named Trigger. What was Dale Evans' horse called?
28. Dale Earnhardt Sr., nicknamed "The Intimidator" for the fear he struck in rival drivers, was killed during the 2001 Daytona 500, following a crash in which his car was bumped from behind by a car driven by whom?
29. What U.S. president appears on the (no longer circulated) \$500 bill, first printed in 1929?
30. In the *Watchmen* comic book limited series, how does the character Dollar Bill die?
31. *All Along the Watchtower*, which was a big hit for Jimi Hendrix, was written and first recorded by what other artist?
32. Hendrix is famous for being the closing act at Woodstock. What group immediately preceded him on stage?
33. Woodstock, of course, is Snoopy's bird friend in *Peanuts*. Snoopy has quite an active imaginary life ... besides his battles with the Red Baron, adventures with the French Foreign Legion, and leading a troop of Beagle Scouts, Snoopy is also an aspiring writer. What line, plagiarized from Edward Bulwer-Lytton's novel *Paul Clifford*, usually begins his stories?
34. Snoop Dogg (newly re-christened as Snoop Lion) claims to be a reincarnation of what musical legend (which is really unlikely, despite whatever religious beliefs the reader might hold ... he was born 10 years before this man died!)?
35. What TV show featured Clarence, the Cross-Eyed Lion?
36. The last line of what classic movie is "Attaboy, Clarence."?
37. What film was the first programming aired by both Turner Classic Movies and TNT?
38. TNT, as I shockingly discovered when I went to link this question to Alfred Nobel, is NOT the same thing as dynamite (don't tell AC/DC)... in fact, it is decidedly non-explosive when not weaponized. To what usage was TNT put when first developed in 1863?
39. Don't worry, I'm not going to link back to AC/DC ... in 1921, Albert Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics ... not for the Theory of Relativity, which was still controversial at the time, but for the Photoelectric Effect. According to most sources, what did he do with the money he won?
40. Befitting a great man such as Einstein, his life was immortalized in the (slightly) apocryphal tale *Young Einstein*. That award-winning movie (not joking, look it up!) tells the story of how young Einstein split the beer atom, invented surfing and the electric guitar, and saved the world from an accidental nuclear meltdown, featuring cameos from such luminaries as Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud, the Wright Brothers and Marie Curie as Einstein's love interest. Anyway, how exactly does Einstein split the beer atom in this film?

41. Charles Darwin was one of the most famous and influential men of the 19th century. Amazingly enough, another, arguably even more famous and influential man was born on the exact same date and year as Darwin ... who was it?
42. Speaking of being upstaged, when Rickey Henderson passed Lou Brock on the all-time stolen base list, he modestly proclaimed (as Brock stood nearby listening politely), "Lou Brock was the symbol of great base stealing. But today, I'm the greatest of all time." You stay classy, Rickey. Anyway, despite his proclamation, Rickey's achievement was only the second biggest baseball news story of that day ... what other colossal achievement upstaged him?
43. When Brock Lesnar became the youngest WWE champion in history at SummerSlam 2002, who did he defeat?
44. Buffy Summers battles demons, vampires, and other assorted evildoers, protecting her town of Sunnydale, California, which is unfortunately built on a "Hellmouth", or a portal between magical dimensions and this one. There is more than one, though ... as mentioned several times in the series, there is another Hellmouth located in the U.S. ... in what city?
45. Speaking of vampire hunters, Abraham Lincoln is perhaps our nation's greatest president. He also was the only U.S. president to receive what?
46. According to urban legend, the statue of Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial has two unusual features ... one is that supposedly the face of Robert E. Lee is secretly sculpted into Lincoln's hair. What is the other?
47. The General Lee was the Dodge Charger driven by the Duke boys in that epitome of high culture, *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Everybody remembers Bo and Luke ... but what were the names of their "cousins"/clones who came to Hazzard when Tom Wopat and John Schneider were holding out for more money?
48. The Duke, John Wayne, appeared in over 140 films from the silent era until his final appearance in *The Shootist* in 1976. Most of his roles were quintessentially American ... However, what may be his strangest role was anything but. He played Genghis Khan in the 1956 film *The Conqueror*. What other legacy (besides bad reviews) did that film give to Wayne?
49. What famed poet wrote *The Conqueror Worm*?
50. And that brings us back to Kevin Bacon, who battled some conqueror worms in *Tremors*. Kind of like that snake (or worm) eating his own tail ... what is that called?