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# February 2026 Miracle on Splice Invitational



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# How This is Going to Work

1. A speed-based seeding round
  2. Team creation
  3. Themed team rounds
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# Speed Round

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# You're On Your Own!

1. There are 10 questions in this round.
  2. Set your Zoom chat to only send to me!
  3. Speed Quizzing Round 1 Rules: 2 points per correct answer, and 1 point to the fastest correct answer.
  4. I will read the question at the same time it appears on the slide. You can answer at any point once I start reading.
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A → Z  
Letters

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## Question 1

Prior to signing with *Nickelodeon* in 2017, this singer from Omaha appeared on two seasons of *Dance Moms*.

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A → Z  
Letters

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## Question 2

There's no officially known story behind the naming of this San Francisco neighborhood, but many suspect it's taken from the setting of the long-running Li'l Abner comic, described as a place "nestled in a bleak valley, between two cheap and uninteresting hills somewhere."

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A → Z  
Letters

## Question 3



This term refers to single-person pulled carts like the one shown in the image, or a bag and backpack producer located in Dogpatch.

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1 2 3 4  
Numbers

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## Question 4

In a non-Sunday crossword from the *New York Times*, how many squares (white and black) are contained within the grid?

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## Question 5

Place these directors in chronological order by the year they won their first Academy Award for Best Director.

- A. John Huston
  - B. John G. Avildsen
  - C. John Ford
  - D. Jonathan Demme
  - E. John Schlesinger
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A → Z  
Letters

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## Question 6

*Tony's long, spindly fingers move across his keyboard, flesh-colored spiders scurrying around* is an example of what literary device?

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A B C D  
*Multiple Choice*

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## Question 7

Which of these UCSF faculty trained at an Ivy League institution at some point?

- A. Dr. Martin Kampmann
  - B. Dr. Ryan Corces
  - C. Dr. Nicola Mueller
  - D. Dr. Brian Black
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A → Z  
Letters

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## Question 8

This mascot was unveiled in January, 1992 and named via an audience contest a few months later. (Yeah, really.)

Then, about 30 years after that, it caused much internal strife among this group.

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1 2 3 4  
*Numbers*

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## Question 9

In what year did the following events occur?

- Steve Fossett becomes the first person to complete a solo flight across the Pacific Ocean in a balloon.
  - Shawn Nelson steals an M60A3 tank from a local California Army National Guard armory.
  - O. J. Simpson is found not guilty of double murder.
  - The final *Calvin and Hobbes* comic strip is published.
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A → Z  
Letters

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## Question 10

A more generic term that encompasses rugby-derived sports such as American and Canadian football is **this** kind of football, a term of art for the field on which these sports are played, or the metal grate used for cooking over a fire.

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# Themed Team Rounds

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# Nerds Who Imbibe

1. We have 6 themed rounds, each with 6 questions.
  2. Your team will have a spreadsheet for entering answers. Each round, you'll get a slide deck with the questions.
  3. I'll split you into breakout rooms to work on them, and we'll reconvene at the end of each round.
  4. You can apply a 2X Joker bonus to one round of your choosing, but you must decide before that round ends.
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# Themes!

1. East Coast Elitist
  2. Nerd Alert
  3. Ask and You Shall Receive
  4. 🎵 Music Round 🎵 (Automatically worth double)
  5. I'm Board
  6. Anything Goes
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# **Round 1**

# **East Coast Elitist**

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## Question 1

Obviously the East Coast has amazing pizza, but did you know that our quaint town of New Haven has the legally-declared *best* pizza, called this?

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## Question 2

New York-style bagels are known to be large, fluffy, and full of snobbery. In fact, some bagel shops have been known to never do *this* common action to a bagel that local food critics have decried as “a bastardization” and “sacrilege”.

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## Question 3

This NYC jazz club that opened in 1981 is among the most famous jazz venues in the world.

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## Question 4

One of the most vaguely-named and successful North American sports team is the New England Patriots.

They play at Gillette Stadium in what city?

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## Question 5

Write down phonetic pronunciations for the towns of Worcester and Leicester, MA.

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## Question 6

This clever(?) donut design was intended for what action?



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# Round 2 Nerd Alert

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## Question 1

This extremely large chemical constant is, jokingly or not, often mistaken for a taco bar upsell.

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## Question 2

While micropipettes in various forms have existed since the late 1800s, the modern adjustable micropipette was invented in collaboration between an engineer and biochemistry professor in what U.S. state?

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## Question 3

This short-lived and aptly-named candy was a larger version of Nerds. They were slightly softer and contained three compartments in a box rather than two.

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## Question 4

Uracil chemically differs from thymine only in its lack of what?

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## Question 5

This astronomical phenomenon causes the “dark side of the Moon”, in which the Moon has no net change in rotation during its orbit around Earth.

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## Question 6

In 1825, Pringle Stokes was named the first captain of *this* ship, though he would not survive to oversee the ship's second voyage that traveled all around South America and the Galapagos Islands.

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# Round 3

## Ask and You Shall Receive

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## Question 1

The Fibonacci sequence shows up in many legitimate math contexts, and some rather questionable numerological situations.

However, its namesake first used it as a very crude approximation for the population growth of what animal?

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## Question 2

The ratio of adjacent values of the Fibonacci sequence approaches the ratio of the side lengths of this geometric figure.

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## Question 3

This ratio mentioned in the previous question, typically denoted as  $\varphi$ , is examined in what Disney cartoon?

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## Question 4

Mathematicians love to classify things completely, which means including this aptly-named sequence in the Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences:

0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, ...

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## Question 5

OEIS Sequence A000014 is described as the “number of series-reduced trees with  $n$  nodes”.

When  $n = 10$ , we get a famous blackboard scene from this movie.

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## Question 6

Determine the smallest prime number with 15 digits.

*You may only navigate to the [OEIS](#) and no other webpages.*

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Round 4

 Music Round 



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# It's Back!

In this music round, each song involves doing something again, backwards, or in reverse

So, in that spirit, I've also set the music to play in reverse.

For each song, give the **band or artist** for 1 point, and **song title** for 1 point.

Good luck!

[Link to songs](#)

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# Answers

1. Cher (*If I Could Turn Back Time*, 1989)
  2. Mr. C the Slide Man / DJ Casper (*Cha-Cha Slide*, 2000)
  3. Rihanna (*Pon de Replay*, 2005)
  4. Jonas Brothers (*Backwards*, 2025)
  5. Bonnie Tyler (*Total Eclipse of the Heart*, 1983)
  6. Nat King Cole (*Looking Back*, 1958)
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# Round 5

## I'm Board

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## Question 1

Spongebob gets highly frustrated playing this board game with Patrick that is based on *Chutes & Ladders*.

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## Question 2

In *Monopoly For Millennials*, players visit Destinations instead of owning property, allowing them to gain *this* critical resource that is also the currency of unpaid interns.

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## Question 3

This old board game is unapologetically based on the even older game, *Ludo*, in which players roll a die to move their four tokens clockwise around a board with the goal of precisely landing them in the final home spaces.

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## Question 4

This famous, long-winded board game was originally created by a French film director and released as *The Conquest of the World*.

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## Question 5

*Mastermind* boards typically have 12 rows for guessing the pattern of 4 pegs, where each peg is one of six different colors. However, this computer scientist and mathematician, who also created the *TeX* typesetting system, showed you can always crack the code in 5 or fewer guesses.



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## Question 6

When Elizabeth Hargrave designed the breakout game *Wingspan*, released in 2019, she was inspired by the many birds she saw while visiting Lake Artemesia in which U.S. state?

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# Round 6

## Anything Goes

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## Question 1

Most notably occurring in Prague, *this* term refers to ejecting someone out of a window.

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## Question 2

What 1980s movie is Roger Ebert reviewing here?

*The interior of a computer is a fine and private place, but none, I fear, do there embrace, except in “[redacted],” a dazzling movie from Walt Disney in which computers have been used to make themselves romantic and glamorous. Here’s a technological sound-and-light show that is sensational and brainy, stylish, and fun.*

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## Question 3

Venus and Uranus are a bit odd, in that their planetary rotation is opposite the direction of their orbit around the sun, meaning their orbital motion is *what?*

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## Question 4

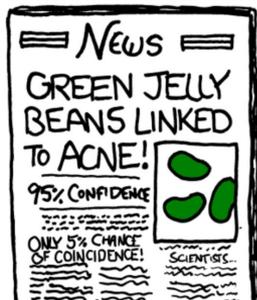
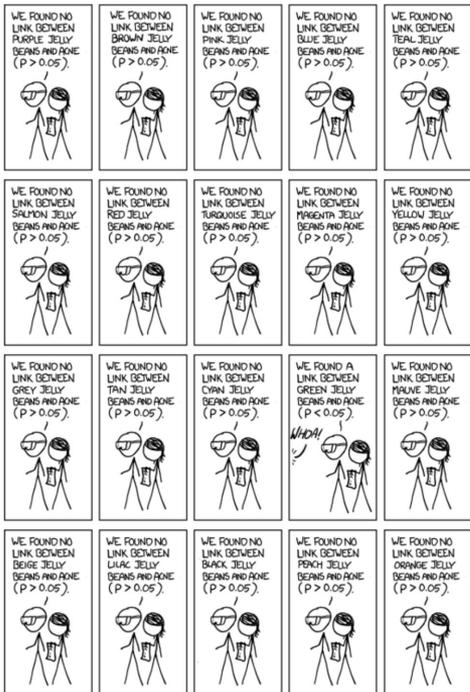
The primary sound conveyance of the San Francisco Wave Organ is:

- A. 15 ceramic tunnels
  - B. 20 stone tubes
  - C. 25 PVC pipes
  - D. 30 metal cylinders
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# Question 5

What mildly slang term of scientific jargon is demonstrated in this xkcd comic?



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## Question 6

This common furniture construction accessory is often referred to by a proprietary eponym arising from an early 1900s trademark by a company in Hartford, CT.

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