

The Great Computer Challenge, 2026

Internet Scavenger Hunt, Level 2

RED TEXT MUST BE REMOVED IN STUDENT VERSION (and leave gaps for answers)

Background

Description - Teams will be given an online scavenger hunt printed on paper. Participants will use their own computer (or any device with a web browser and Internet access).

Hardware/Software – Participating teams are allowed one computer or smart device per team.

Internet Access – Allowed (and required!) ODU Wi-Fi is available for any team that needs it. Team sponsors should ensure participants are able to login to their computers without sponsor assistance during the event.

Judging – Each team should record their answers with pencil or pen on the paper scavenger hunt.

Criteria – The Scavenger Hunt is scored for correct answers and methods used to obtain the answers. Teams will be judged on the quality of their responses. Partially-correct answers and close answers may get some credit at the judge's discretion.

Guidelines & Requirements

- Put your school's name and team number on each page.
- The answers and the website where the answer was found are required for each challenge. Even if you already know the answer, you must find the information on the Internet and name the website where you found the answer.
- You may list multiple websites.
- All sources are valid, but some are better than others. A university website is more trustworthy than a blog. Both are more trustworthy than a tweet.
- Some of the challenges may have more than one part. Answer some for partial credit.
- Complete sentences are not required, if your answer is clear.
- You may put your answers directly on this handout. Or you can put your answers on separate paper.
- Showing your work and being detailed are helpful – maybe you can get partial credit if the answer is incorrect, but the work is good.
- Wrong answers and incomplete answers do not make you lose points. Try to answer all challenges.

Example Challenge

Was ODU founded before or after the Great Depression started?

Answer: ODU was founded in 1930 **after** the Great Depression started in 1929.

<https://www.odu.edu/about/historyandarchives>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression

Challenge 1

How many countries have names that end in “-stan”?

Answer: 7. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
Easily on Google and AI tools.

Challenge 2

If you were standing at the top of the Eiffel Tower looking North, what famous river would be directly beneath you?

Answer: Seine River

Suggested by Gemini as an AI-resistant question. It is not.

Challenge 3

Which of these things is a **botanical berry**: strawberry, raspberry, banana, grape, blackberry?

Answer: banana and grape are the only berries in that list. <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/did-you-know/bananas-are-berries-raspberries-are-not>

Challenge 4

Who is the author of the headline article of today’s New York Times newspaper?

Answer: [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) -> Today’s Paper -> look for “By” line beneath first image.

Challenge 5

Something about new Mario movie? Something that requires watching the trailer?

In the Final Trailer for the Super Mario Galaxy Movie, what is the Toad that gets slapped wearing?

Answer: green shirt, white pants, brown shoes, green jacket/cloak, glasses

<https://youtu.be/LX9kXRRJIPw?si=UO0CQCLJC8xaGkt9&t=95>

Challenge 6

The Pokémon Trading Card Game has several new expansions each year. In the Ascended Heroes expansion, how much damage does Charmander's attack do to the opponent?

Answer: 30. <https://www.pokemon.com/us/pokemon-tcg/pokemon-cards/series/me2pt5/20/>

Challenge 7

This is the 41st annual Great Computer Challenge. This event occurs every year. What year was the first Great Computer Challenge? Did your school (where you are in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade) exist that year?

Answer: I think 1986 but I cannot find a source that explicitly says that and says that we have not skipped a year. But let's go with 1986 which is safe if we accept the assumption in the question.

Example for Larchmont Elementary: Yes, it existed in 1986 because it was built in 1929.

<https://les.npsk12.com/our-school/about-our-school>

Challenge 8

This is on the cover of a popular book. Find an image of that cover online. What is the title and who is the author?



Answer: The Adventures of Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey

Challenge 9

About a month ago, there was a NASA mission. Where did the astronauts go on that mission and where did the mission end? (Where did the spaceship stop when it returned to Earth)?

Answer: They flew by the far side of the moon and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/20412/>

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-article/artemis-ii-splashes-down/>

Challenge 10

In 2025, the United States Mint stopped producing pennies. If you have pennies, can you still use them to buy something?

Answer: yes

<https://www.usmint.gov/news/media-kit/penny>

Challenge 11

The popular m&m's candy has not always had the same colors. What is a color that was added to the candy? What color was removed?



Answer: Originally it was brown, yellow, green, red, and purple. Tan was added then removed again. Orange was added. Red was removed then re-added. Purple was removed, added again, then removed again. Blue was added.

Challenge 12

On April 1, 1957, a TV show in England showed a video of farmers harvesting spaghetti noodles from a tree. Does spaghetti grow on trees? How do we get spaghetti noodles?

Answer: Spaghetti is not grown. Spaghetti is made from dough made of flour and water. The pasta is shaped by pushing the dough through a machine called an extruder, cut into pieces, and dried.

Judging Criteria

See Guidelines and Requirements section on the first page.

Have fun and thank for participating in the Great Computer Challenge, 2026!