

LOOKING FOR LIMERICKS PURSUING PUZZLES REQUESTING RHYMES, RIDDLES

There are many kinds of “brain teasers.” We enjoy them as much today as our ancestors did years ago. But if you think that trying to figure out the answers is fun, try creating your own riddles and games.

Here are a variety of word puzzles for you to decipher. When you have solved them, write a few of your own about some aspect of Vermont history.

1. What is it that occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, but only once in a million years? *
2. What can run but never walks,
Has a mouth but never talks,
Has a bed but never sleeps,
Has a head but never weeps? *
3. I'm the same as before, as I'll always be,
Take two letters from me, or three or four.
I'll still be the same as I was before.
In fact, I can tell you that all my letters you may take,
Yet of me nothing else can you make. *
4. I am composed of ten letters.
My 3,5,7,1 is good to eat.
My 1,6,7,4 is used in catching rats.
My 4,2,8 is used in writing.
My 3,7,4 is used in studying geography.
My 7,6,3 is part of the body.
My 1,2,8 is a number.
My 4,10,7,6 is a fruit.
My 9,2,8,1 is a coin.
My whole has saved man from ruin. **

5. My first is a verb. Add to me one letter and I become an insect. Add another and I become a kind of vegetable. Add two more letters and I become the name of another insect. *

6. If you a sour fruit transpose
A very sweet one 'twill disclose. *

LIMERICKS

Limericks are not puzzles you have to figure out like the others here are. Instead, limericks are five line poems. The first, second, and fifth lines rhyme. The third and fourth lines, which are shorter, rhyme with each other.

There was a lively old lady in Stowe
Whose house was buried in snow.
When the weather grew warmer
She skied down the dormer
Shouting “Track,” and “Look out below!” ***

A young man exceedingly hairy
Took a job in a St. Albans dairy,
But the cows took fright
And bellowed all night
'Til they were heard all the way in Barre. ***

*Courtesy of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*

**Courtesy of the 1846 *Juvenile Cabinet*

***Courtesy of *The Vermont Traveler*

ANSWERS:

1. The letter “M.” 2. A river. 3. A postman.
4. Temperance 5. Beetle 6. Lemon and Melon.