

Tipspromenad Answers

#1. Who is considered the father of the modern nation of Sweden?

1. **Gustav Eriksson Vasa**: Gustav Vasa was elected as the first king of the modern Kingdom of Sweden on June 6, 1523, and triumphantly marched into Stockholm on midsummer's eve eleven days later, marking the end of Sweden's inclusion in the Kalmar Union. The day of Gustav Vasa's election to king is now celebrated as the National Day of Sweden.

X. Gustav II Adolf: Grandson of Gustav Vasa, he was known as the Lion of the North for his role in the Thirty Years' War and was influential in making Sweden a major European power.

2. Karl XV: Was the sitting king of Sweden when the colony of New Sweden, Maine was founded.

#2. Which animal do Swedes call "the king of the forest"?

1. Bear: Feared and given many euphemistic names, but not the king.

X. **Moose**: With a majestic crown, the moose is "Skogens Konung."

2. Wolf: Among other names, called *Gråben* (gray-leg), *Tasse* (paws, one who walks quietly), and *Den grå* (The gray), but not the king.

#3. *Sill* has a long history as a food item in Sweden. What is it?

1. **Herring**: *Sill* refers to herring fished out of the Atlantic Ocean. The same species of fish that lives in the Baltic is called *strömming*.

X. Salmon: *Lax*

2. Pike: *Gädda*

#4: Putting a number of flowers under one's pillow on midsummer's night has a long tradition. To what end?

1. To bless one's rest throughout the year

X. To ensure a fruitful harvest

2. **To dream of one's future spouse**: Another tradition that could be used instead of or alongside the above was to eat before bed food (usually porridge) prepared to be extremely salty. That night the man who offered the dreamer something to drink would become her husband, and sometimes what he offered indicated what sort of life they would lead: water meant a simple life, wine meant a rich one.

#5: The hero of the Old English epic *Beowulf* was probably from the land area of which modern nation?

1. England: The poem was (probably) composed here, likely sometime between 700 and 1000 AD.

X. **Sweden**: Though there is much debate over where in Sweden he came from: Östergötland, Västergötland, or Gotland.

2. Denmark: The first portion of the story takes place in Denmark, with Beowulf arriving by ship.

#6: Which Swedish author first wrote “The Tomten”?

1. Viktor Rydberg: A hastily written poem about the mystery of life, it was first published in February 1881 and was only later connected to Christmas.

X. Astrid Lindgren: As the director of children’s literature at the publisher Rabén & Sjögren, Lindgren wrote a much simplified prose version of the poem that doesn’t much grapple with the philosophical issues of the original, though it retains a measure of its magic. This was done largely to facilitate translation and open the door to larger international sales.

2. Selma Lagerlöf: Nobel Prize winner and beloved author, but not of *Tomten*.

#7: What is the largest lake, by surface area, in Sweden?

1. Vänern: Borders Västergötland, Dalsland, and Värmland.

X. Vättern: The second largest in Sweden, it is a long, narrow, and deep lake that divides Västergötland from Östergötland.

2. Storsjön: The name translates to *The Great Lake* and it is the largest lake in Jämtland, but the fifth largest in Sweden.

#8: Dalarna is a well-known landskap of Sweden. What does its name mean?

1. The hills: Would be something like *höjderna* or *kullarna*.

X. The valleys: *Dalarna* is the definite plural of *dal*, which is related to our English words *dell* and *dale*.

2. The rivers: Would be something like *floderna*, or *älvarna*.

#9: Astrid Lindgren is one of Sweden’s most beloved authors. In which landskap was she born?

1. Skåne

X. Uppland

2. Småland

#10: In 1957, the Swedish ice hockey team unexpectedly won the world championship. What song did they sing at the award ceremony?

1. National song “Du gamle, du fria”: The national song of Sweden, though this has been established by custom and is not official.

X. Drinking song “Helan går”: The hockey team wasn’t entirely familiar with the de facto national song *Du gamle, du fria*, but they did know *Helan går*. It is a *snapsvisa* – that is, a song that is a part of drinking *snap*s (shots of liquor).

2. Folk song “Uti vår hage”: A beautiful folk song of unknown age and origin, it was first written down in 1880 on the island of Gotland.

#11: About how many hours of daylight does Stockholm, Sweden experience on midsummer day?

1. 18.5

X. 20.5

2. 22.5

#12: On which day does Sweden celebrate midsommar every year?

1. June 21

X. June 22

2. Whichever day happens to be a Saturday in the period June 20-26 that year