The "A-Maize-ing" Popcorn Trivia Sheet

National Day Calendar

1. The Great Bounce

Question: How high can a single kernel of popcorn "jump" when it pops?

- **A)** 3 inches
- **B)** Up to 3 feet
- **C)** It doesn't jump; it just expands.

2. Ancient Snacks

Question: How old is the oldest popcorn ever found?

- **A)** 500 years old
- **B)** 1,200 years old
- **C)** 4,000 years old

3. The Science of the "Pop"

Question: What is the one thing inside a kernel that makes it pop?

- **A)** A tiny pocket of air
- **B)** A tiny drop of water
- **C)** Magic

4. Movie Magic

Question: Why did movie theaters originally **ban** popcorn in the early 1900s?

- **A)** It was too loud and messy.
- **B)** They thought it was bad for your health.
- **C)** It was too expensive to buy.

5. Shapes and Sizes

Question: Popcorn comes in two main "shapes." What are they called?

- **A)** Clouds and Stars
- **B)** Snowflakes and Mushrooms
- **C)** Circles and Squares

Solutions:

1) Answer: B! Because of the rapid release of steam pressure, a kernel can catapult itself up to 3 feet in the air.

2) Answer: C! Archaeologists found popcorn remnants in a cave in New Mexico that were roughly **4,000 years old**. It's the ultimate vintage snack.

3) Answer: B! Each kernel contains a small amount of water stored inside a circle of soft starch. When it heats up, that water turns to steam, builds pressure, and—*BOOM*—the starch turns inside out.

4) Answer: A! Early theaters wanted to be "high-class" like Broadway and felt the crunching was too distracting. They only started selling it during the Great Depression because it was a cheap luxury people could afford.

5) Answer: B! Snowflake popcorn is the fluffy, irregular kind you get at movies. **Mushroom** popcorn is round and sturdy, usually used for caramel corn so it doesn't break!