1. In the common room at the local tavern a wooden trencher and spoons was used to serve soup. The soup was really more like a stew. Biscuits were used to sop up all the leftovers. Biscuits were free. Why did they use biscuits to clean the bowls? (B)
   A. they didn’t want to waste any food  B. they didn’t wash the bowls before the next person used it  C. they didn’t have enough spoons  D. they turned the bowls over to serve dessert

2. How could you tell if a tavern was one of the better ones? (C)
   A. by the number of people they employed  B. by the number of rooms they had  C. by the size of their mousetraps  D. by the letter rating

3. You could pay extra for a bath at a tavern. They didn’t change the bathwater however. Did they change the water after (C)
   A. 2 baths  B. 3 baths  C. 5 baths  D. 10 baths

4. Taverns also served as a sort of post office (B)
   A. did the sender pay postage? or  B. did the receiver pay the postage?
   (the tavern keeper would read the letters aloud for all to hear. If you didn’t want to pay the postage, you would ask someone around town until you found someone who had heard it. There were many letters left in the letter slots at the tavern!)

5. You would pay less postage if you (A)
   A. kept a solemn face  B. smiled and laughed

6. Fire screens were often put before a fire place. Do you know why? (C)
   A. to keep people sitting near the fire from getting too hot  B. just for decoration  C. many women had pox scars on their faces and filled the little holes with wax. The fire screen was used to keep the wax from melting, but still provided heat  D. keep cinders from popping out of the fireplace

7. The wealthy people ate in a more dignified dining room than the “common” room. They were served on china plates and had a varied menu. They were served by a person called a serving (B)
   A. maid  B. wench  C. man  D. waiter

8. One of the entertainments was playing cards. You had to rent the cards. To make sure you always paid, the tavern keeper (A)
   A. would keep out the Ace of Spades  B. would keep the cards under lock and key  C. would have special card nights

9. We get a saying from this practice. It is (A)
   A. not playing with a full deck  B. Aces high  C. show me the money

10. There were not many rooms in a tavern. You would usually share a room with
    A. four other people  B. nine other people  C. eleven other people
11. The taverns had a type of straw mattresses that would roll out. You would (A)
   A. sleep sitting up   B. furnish your own blankets   C. go to bed while it was still light outside

12. If you were wealthy and perhaps brought your wife with you (B)
   A. you would remain overnight in the coach rather than have to sleep in the tavern   B. pay for all 5 of the spaces and have a private room

13. Feather beds were a luxury because it took a long time to collect enough goose down to fill a mattress. Most mattresses would be filled with straw. The beds used ropes as slats to hold the mattresses. You would wind the rope from a knob at the end of the bed. We get the following saying from this type of bed and mattress. (C)
   A. Sweet dreams   B. counting sheep   C. sleep tight, hope the bedbugs don’t bite

14. Colonial men smoked clay pipes. How did people at the tavern know how to charge for what you smoked? (C)
   A. you bought the pipe and tobacco   B. you brought your own tobacco and just used their pipe C. the tobacco was free….you paid by the amount of pipe you smoked, then they broke off the end for the next person

15. How did you get the chewing tobacco?(A)
   A. it was free, you only took what you could chew while you were in the tavern   B. you bought it by the ounce   C. you bought it by the pound
   (We got “don’t bite off more than you can chew” from this practice.)

16. A colonial jail was called the gaol. You were put in jail for (C)
   A. stealing   B. for murder   C. for owing money   D. for cheating

17. Colonial women always wore a white cap to cover their hair. Why do you think women wore this caps?
   A. their religion said their head must be covered   B. to keep out dust   C. it was the fashion   D. so they wouldn’t have to curl their hair (B)

18. Colonial people did not think bathing was healthy. They did not bathe much and women only washed their hair
   A. once a month   B. once or twice a year   C. every two weeks (B)

19. When you went to visit people, you usually stayed for several weeks or even months at a time.
   You would take many things with you like your own bed linen and (B)
   A. food   B. silver (eating utensils)   C. books and games

20. On the table, you would have several tablecloths. The last one signaled that (B)
   A. it was time to have dessert   B. the meal was over   C. it was time to reset the table
21. By each place there was a clear, beaker-like bowl. It was used to (B)
   A. rinse your fingers   B. rinse your wine glass between courses  C. as a water glass

22. A public embarrassment was to be put in a stocks or a pillory. In the pillory you have your head
   and hands locked into this uncomfortable device. With stocks, you (A)
   A. sat on a thin rail and your feet were locked into a similar device  B. were tied to stake-like
   device   C. you were dunked into water

23. People who made barrels were called (B)
   A. barrel makers   B. coopers   C. warblers

24. Shops had painted pictures for signs because (C)
   A. it was good advertisement   B. they were decorative and made people want to come in   C. many people couldn’t read

25. A colonial drugstore or pharmacy was called (B)
   A. a general store   B. an apothecary   C. a chemist’s shop

26. The place where ammunition was stored was called (A)
   A. the magazine   B. the depot   C. the armory

27. Many of the medical practices were quite different from today. Leeches were used to
   A. cure the common cold   B. suck blood from sick people   C. cure gout (B)

31. Colonial homes did not have closets. They kept their clothes in trunks and
   A. presses   B. armoires   C. under the bed (A)

The information in this guessing game/quiz came from various trips to Williamsburg and other historical tourist destinations. The
tavern called the "Rising Sun" in Fredericksburg, Virginia and the "Raleigh Tavern" in Williamsburg were great sources.