



December Celebrations Excerpt

Winter Solstice Trivia Quiz

The winter solstice is a precise moment in time when the earth's tilt on its axis is farthest away from the sun. In the northern hemisphere, that usually falls on December 21st and in the southern hemisphere usually on June 21st.



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

1. Although the winter solstice is intended to be celebrated at the time of least daylight, in reality, the earliest sunset occurs as much as two weeks earlier than the 21st, and the latest sunrise occurs after the solstice.

True ____ False ____



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

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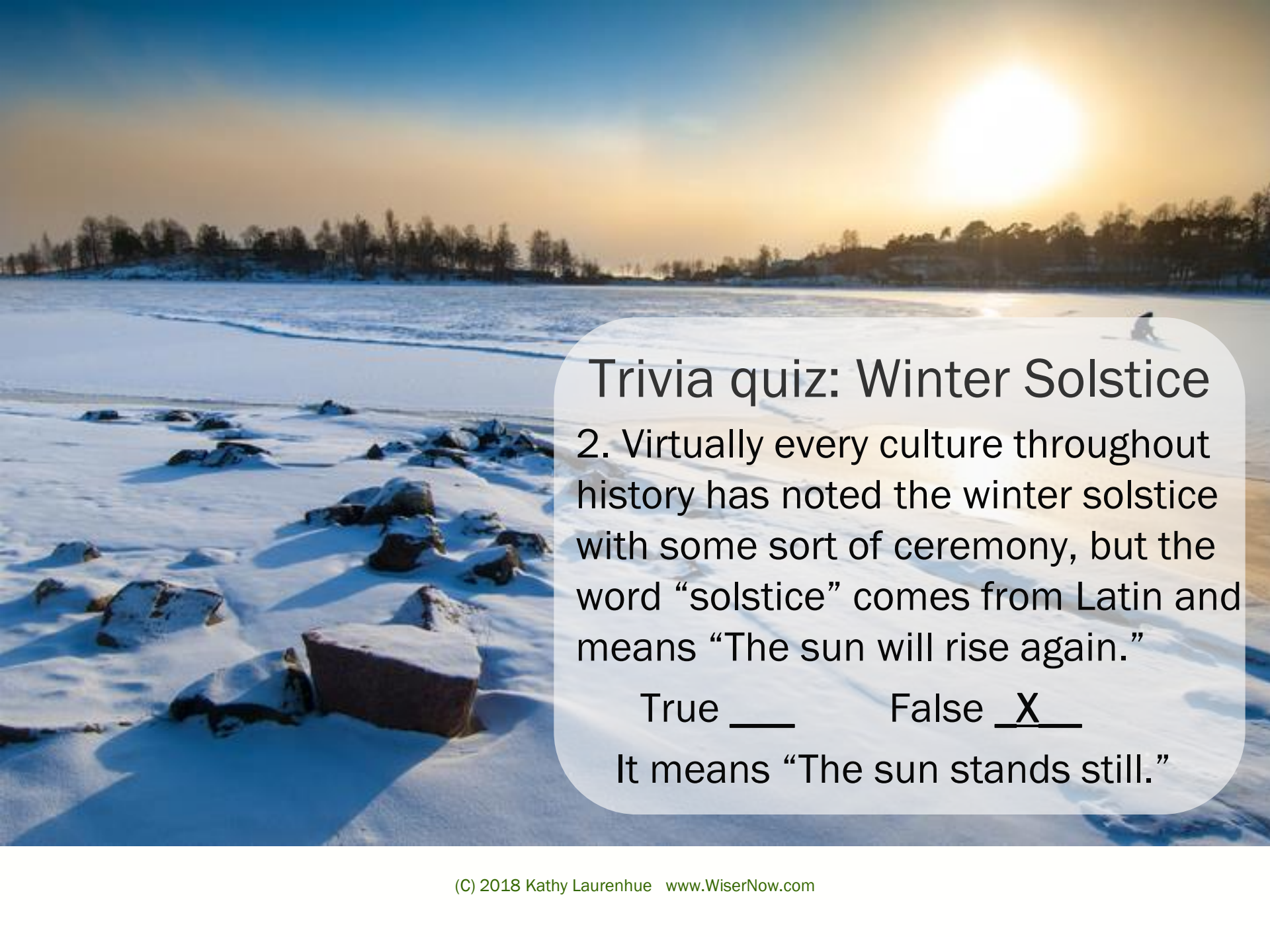
True X False



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

2. Virtually every culture throughout history has noted the winter solstice with some sort of ceremony, but the word “solstice” comes from Latin and means “The sun will rise again.”

True ____ False ____




Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

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True ___ False X


It means “The sun stands still.”



Trivia Quiz: Winter Solstice

3. One of the most ancient solstice celebrations was the Roman Saturnalia. What was Saturn supposed to be the god of?

- a. Wealth ____
- b. Fertility ____
- c. Agriculture ____
- d. Excess ____



Trivia Quiz: Winter Solstice

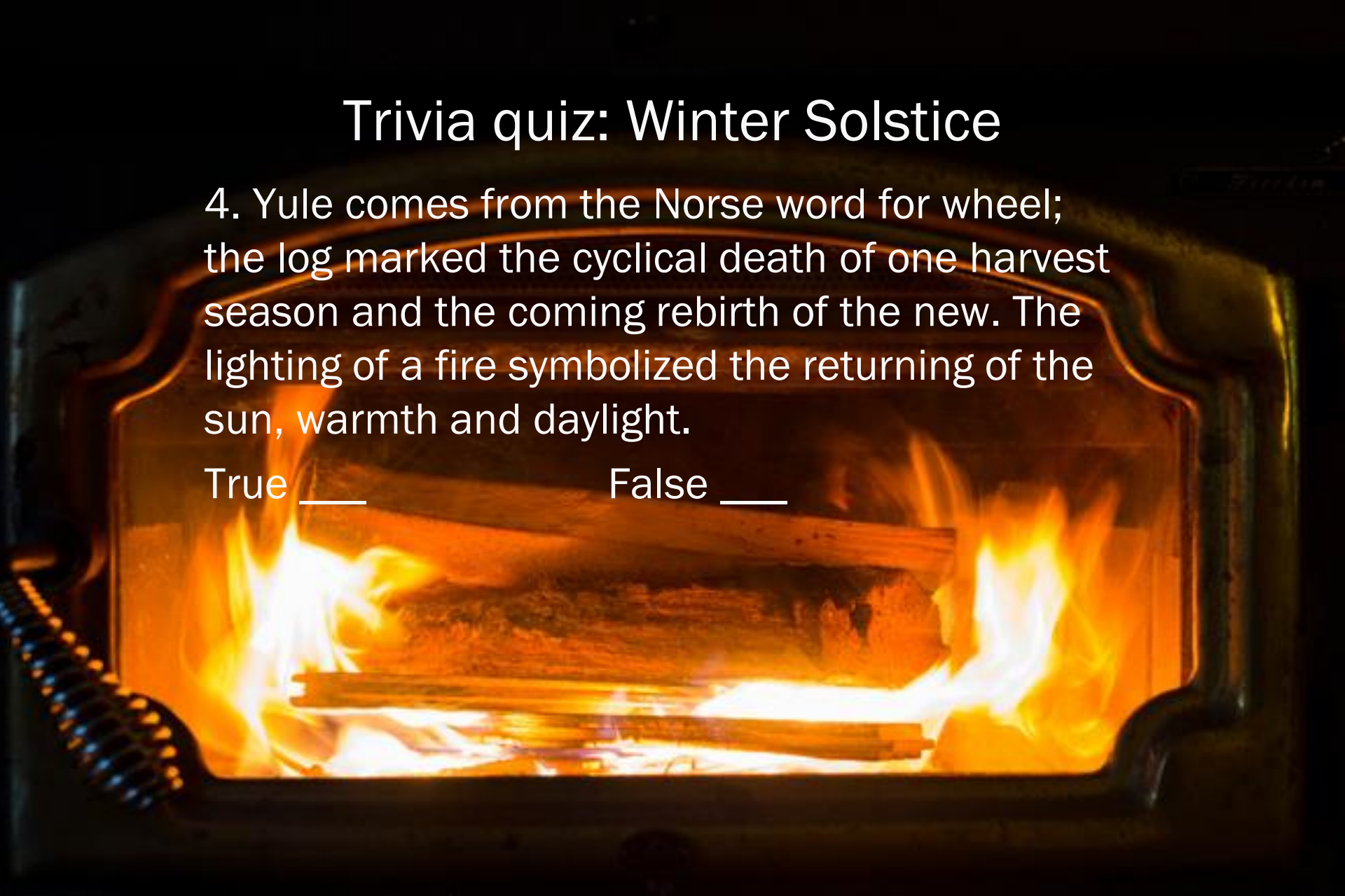
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4. Yule comes from the Norse word for wheel; the log marked the cyclical death of one harvest season and the coming rebirth of the new. The lighting of a fire symbolized the returning of the sun, warmth and daylight.

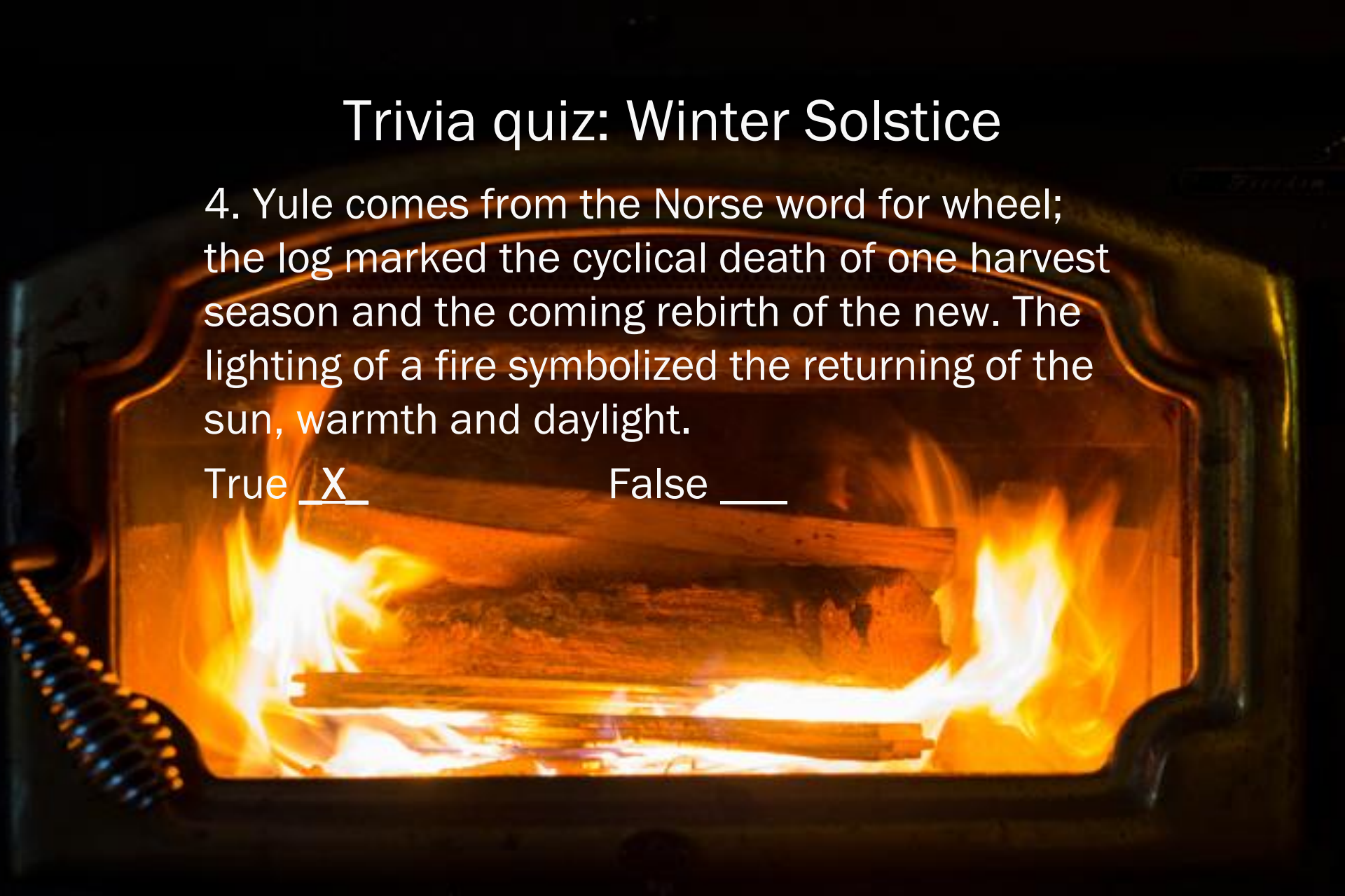
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True X False





Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

5. Holly, associated with Druid, Celtic and Roman traditions, symbolizes:

- a. Fertility and eternal life ____
- b. Goodwill and happiness ____
- c. Only a. ____
- d. Both a. and b. ____



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

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Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

6. Evergreen wreaths symbolize:
 - a. Victory – wreaths were once given to winners of competitions ____
 - b. Eternity (no beginning or end) ____
 - c. The circle of life ____
 - d. Strength through trials ____
 - e. All of the above ____



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Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

7. Mistletoe is associated with Frigga, the Norse goddess of love and marriage, whose son was killed by an arrow poisoned with mistletoe. Her tears brought him back to life, and Frigga ever after changed it to a symbol of peace and love, promising a kiss to all who passed under it.

True ____ False ____



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True X False



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

8. Icicles and tinsel on Christmas trees were both originally meant to symbolize the sun's rays or a reflection of light.

True

False



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True

False



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

8. Even though they reflect light, they symbolized rain, or the water essential to any form of life.



Trivia quiz: Winter Solstice

9. The trees themselves symbolized the world, with their branches supporting the sun, moon and stars, which is why they were decorated with lights.

True ____ False ____

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True X False

Did you know?

Feasting at the solstice was a natural occurrence, because animals tended to be slaughtered then out of fear that they would not survive the winter. It was the one time each year many people had fresh meat. By now December over-indulging is probably in our genes. Don't fight it.



A parting wish



on



I hope this slide show excerpt has helped you make new connections in your brain and delightful connections sharing it with others.



For more information or more slide shows, contact Kathy Laenhue at Kathy@WiserNow.com
And please review www.WiserNow.com and www.CreatingDelight.com.