

US History Trivia

From the founding fathers to the space race, twenty questions that test how well you know the sto...

Name / Team:

Score:

1 Who was the first President of the United States?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. Benjamin Franklin
- C. George Washington
- D. John Adams

2 In what year did the Declaration of Independence get signed?

- A. 1774
- B. 1776
- C. 1778
- D. 1783

3 Which war was fought between the northern and southern states of the US?

- A. The Revolutionary War
- B. The War of 1812
- C. The Civil War
- D. The Spanish-American War

4 What document begins with the words 'We the People'?

- A. The Declaration of Independence
- B. The Bill of Rights
- C. The Constitution
- D. The Emancipation Proclamation

5 Who gave the famous 'I Have a Dream' speech during the March on Washington?

- A. Malcolm X
- B. Martin Luther King Jr.
- C. John Lewis
- D. Thurgood Marshall

6 Which country did the United States purchase the Louisiana Territory from in 1803?

- A. Spain
- B. England
- C. France
- D. Mexico

7 What event on December 7, 1941, brought the United States into World War II?

- A. The sinking of the Lusitania
- B. The invasion of Normandy
- C. The attack on Pearl Harbor
- D. The bombing of London

8 Who was President during the Civil War?

- A. Ulysses S. Grant
- B. Andrew Johnson
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. James Buchanan

9 The first ten amendments to the Constitution are collectively known as what?

- A. The Articles of Confederation
- B. The Bill of Rights
- C. The Federalist Papers
- D. The Preamble

10 Which amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery?

- A. The 12th Amendment
- B. The 13th Amendment
- C. The 14th Amendment
- D. The 15th Amendment

11 Who was the first American to orbit the Earth?

- A. Neil Armstrong
- B. Buzz Aldrin
- C. Alan Shepard
- D. John Glenn

12 What Supreme Court case established the principle of 'separate but equal'?

- A. Marbury v. Madison
- B. Brown v. Board of Education
- C. Plessy v. Ferguson
- D. Dred Scott v. Sandford

US History Trivia

(continued)

13 Which territory was the last to become a US state?

- A. Alaska
- B. Hawaii
- C. Puerto Rico
- D. Arizona

14 What did the Homestead Act of 1862 provide to settlers?

- A. Free passage on the transcontinental railroad
- B. 160 acres of public land
- C. Citizenship for immigrants
- D. Tax exemptions for five years

15 Who was the US President during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. John F. Kennedy
- C. Lyndon B. Johnson
- D. Richard Nixon

16 What was the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620?

- A. The Nina
- B. The Mayflower
- C. The Santa Maria
- D. The Speedwell

17 Which US President ordered the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

- A. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- B. Harry S. Truman
- C. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- D. Douglas MacArthur

18 The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 was a landmark event in the fight for what cause?

- A. Abolition of slavery
- B. Labor rights
- C. Women's suffrage
- D. Native American sovereignty

19 What was the primary purpose of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)?

- A. To find gold in the western territories
- B. To explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory
- C. To negotiate peace treaties with Native American...
- D. To establish a military presence on the Pacific co...

20 In what year did the 19th Amendment grant women the right to vote?

- A. 1910
- B. 1915
- C. 1920
- D. 1925

US History Trivia — Answer Key

1. C George Washington

George Washington was inaugurated as the first President on April 30, 1789 in New York City.

2. B 1776

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. The document was primarily drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

3. C The Civil War

The Civil War (1861-1865) was fought between the Union (North) and the Confederacy (South), primarily over the issues of slavery and states' rights.

4. C The Constitution

The United States Constitution begins with 'We the People of the United States.' It was ratified in 1788.

5. B Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the speech on August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

6. C France

President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon's France for about \$15 million, roughly doubling the size of the nation.

7. C The attack on Pearl Harbor

Japan's surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killed over 2,400 Americans and led to the US declaring war the next day.

8. C Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln served as President from 1861 to 1865 and led the Union through the Civil War. He was assassinated just days after the war ended.

9. B The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791 and guarantees fundamental freedoms including speech, religion, press, and the right to bear arms.

10. B The 13th Amendment

The 13th Amendment, ratified in 1865, abolished slavery throughout the United States. The 14th granted citizenship and the 15th granted voting rights.

11. D John Glenn

John Glenn orbited the Earth three times on February 20, 1962, aboard Friendship 7. Alan Shepard was the first American in space but did not orbit.

12. C Plessy v. Ferguson

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) upheld racial segregation under 'separate but equal.' It was overturned by Brown v. Board of Education in 1954.

13. B Hawaii

Hawaii became the 50th state on August 21, 1959. Alaska became the 49th state earlier that same year on January 3.

14. B 160 acres of public land

The Homestead Act gave 160 acres of western public land to settlers who agreed to live on and improve the land for five years.

15. B John F. Kennedy

The Cuban Missile Crisis occurred in October 1962 during Kennedy's presidency. It was the closest the Cold War came to nuclear conflict.

16. B The Mayflower

The Mayflower carried 102 passengers from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts. They established the Plymouth Colony and signed the Mayflower Compact.

17. B Harry S. Truman

President Truman authorized the use of atomic weapons in August 1945. Roosevelt had died in April of that year, months before the bombs were dropped.

18. C Women's suffrage

The Seneca Falls Convention, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, was the first women's rights convention in the US.

19. B To explore the newly purchased Louisi...

President Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory, map the land, and find a route to the Pacific.

20. C 1920

The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, after decades of activism by suffragists including Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul.