MEGAN MORAN QUIZZES

USA quiz

20 multiple-choice questions from The Great American Quiz Book by Megan Moran. Read each question and its four options out, and teams write down a letter. The host's answer sheet (with a fact to share for each answer) and a team answer sheet to print for every table come after the questions.

USA

1. Which is the largest US state by total area? A) Texas B) Alaska C) California D) Montana
2. In which city is the Golden Gate Bridge? A) Los Angeles B) Seattle C) San Diego D) San Francisco
3. Which is the only US state whose name has just one syllable? A) Maine B) Utah C) Ohio D) Iowa
4. Francis Scott Key wrote the words of 'The Star-Spangled Banner' after watching the 1814 bombardment of which fort? A) Fort Sumter B) Fort Knox C) Fort McHenry D) Fort Ticonderoga
5. The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from which country? A) France B) Spain C) Italy D) The Netherlands
6. The teddy bear is named after which US president? A) Abraham Lincoln B) Theodore Roosevelt C) Thomas Jefferson D) Ulysses S. Grant
7. What is the lowest point in North America, at 282 ft (86 m) below sea level? A) The Salton Sea B) Great Salt Lake C) New Orleans D) Badwater Basin in Death Valley
8. Which president is the only one to have been elected to more than two terms? A) Woodrow Wilson B) Dwight D. Eisenhower C) Franklin D. Roosevelt D) Harry S. Truman
9. In which state is Mount Rushmore? A) North Dakota B) Wyoming C) South Dakota D) Montana
10. Which state is nicknamed 'The First State' because it was the first to ratify the US Constitution? A) Delaware B) Pennsylvania C) Virginia D) Massachusetts
11. Which state is known as the 'Sunshine State'? A) California B) Arizona C) Hawaii D) Florida
12. In which year did Hawaii become the 50th US state? A) 1948 B) 1959 C) 1912 D) 1967
13. Buffalo wings, the spicy chicken dish, take their name from a city in which state? A) New York B) Ohio C) Pennsylvania D) Illinois
14. Which inventor created the phonograph, a machine that could record and play back sound, in 1877? A) Alexander Graham Bell B) Nikola Tesla C) Thomas Edison D) George Westinghouse
15. Who was the first US president to serve two non-consecutive terms? A) Andrew Jackson B) Benjamin Harrison C) Martin Van Buren D) Grover Cleveland
16. In which state is the Grand Canyon? A) Nevada B) Utah C) Colorado D) Arizona
17. What is the highest mountain in the contiguous (lower 48) United States? A) Mount Elbert B) Mount Whitney C) Mount Rainier D) Pikes Peak
18. How many stripes are on the flag of the United States? A) 13 B) 50 C) 12 D) 15
19. Which bird has appeared on the Great Seal of the United States since 1782? A) Wild turkey B) Golden eagle C) Bald eagle D) Peregrine falcon

20. What was New York City called when it was a Dutch colonial settlement? A) New Rotterdam B) New Amsterdam C) New Leiden D) New Delft

Answer sheet

For the host. The facts in gray are extras to read out after each answer.

USA

1. **B) Alaska**
   Alaska covers about 665,000 sq mi (1.7 million km²), more than twice the area of Texas, the second-largest state.
2. **D) San Francisco**
   Opened in 1937, the bridge is painted a color called 'International Orange', chosen partly so it stands out in the area's frequent fog.
3. **A) Maine**
   Maine is also the only state that borders just one other state: New Hampshire.
4. **C) Fort McHenry**
   Fort McHenry guards Baltimore Harbor; Key's poem was later set to music and officially became the national anthem in 1931.
5. **A) France**
   Dedicated in 1886, the statue was designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, with an internal iron framework engineered by Gustave Eiffel.
6. **B) Theodore Roosevelt**
   In 1902 Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear that had been tied up for him on a Mississippi hunting trip, and toymakers soon sold 'Teddy's bear'.
7. **D) Badwater Basin in Death Valley**
   Badwater Basin lies in California's Death Valley National Park, where summer temperatures can climb above 120°F (49°C).
8. **C) Franklin D. Roosevelt**
   Roosevelt won four elections, from 1932 to 1944; the 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951, now limits presidents to two elected terms.
9. **C) South Dakota**
   Carved between 1927 and 1941, it shows Washington, Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Lincoln, with each face about 60 ft (18 m) tall.
10. **A) Delaware**
    Delaware ratified the Constitution on December 7, 1787, a date now celebrated in the state as Delaware Day.
11. **D) Florida**
    Florida's legislature adopted 'The Sunshine State' as its official nickname in 1970.
12. **B) 1959**
    Alaska became the 49th state earlier the same year, in January 1959, and Hawaii followed that August.
13. **A) New York**
    The Anchor Bar in Buffalo is widely credited with first serving the wings, tossed in hot sauce, in 1964.
14. **C) Thomas Edison**
    The first words Edison recorded were reportedly 'Mary had a little lamb', spoken onto a cylinder wrapped in tinfoil.
15. **D) Grover Cleveland**
    Cleveland was both the 22nd and 24th president; Benjamin Harrison's single term, from 1889 to 1893, fell in between.
16. **D) Arizona**
    Carved by the Colorado River, the canyon is about 277 miles (446 km) long and more than a mile (1.6 km) deep in places.
17. **B) Mount Whitney**
    At about 14,500 ft (4,420 m), California's Mount Whitney stands less than 90 miles (145 km) from Badwater Basin, North America's lowest point.

18. A) 13

The 13 red and white stripes represent the original colonies, while the 50 stars stand for the states.

19. C) Bald eagle

Despite more than two centuries as a national emblem, the bald eagle was only formally named the official national bird by law in December 2024.

20. B) New Amsterdam

The English took control in 1664 and renamed the town after the Duke of York, the future King James II.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 20 questions.

Team name _____

USA

Total score _____ / 20

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