July 4th Trivia Quiz 2016

1. How did George Washington celebrate with his troops on July 4, 1778?
   a) He set off fireworks.
   b) He gave his troops double rations of rum.
   c) He had his soldiers served apple pie.
   d) He defeated the British in battle.

   Answer: b) Washington gave his troops double rations of rum. He also ordered an artillery salute.

2. How did South Carolina Declaration signer Thomas Heyward, Jr. celebrate Independence Day in 1781?
   a) He baked a flag-shaped cake.
   b) He spat in the face of British soldiers.
   c) He recanted his support for independence.
   d) He wrote patriotic verses to the tune of the British national anthem, God Save the King.

   Answer: d) Thomas Heyward Jr. was captured by the British in 1780. While imprisoned, Heyward celebrated Independence Day by penning songs such as “God Save the Thirteen States.”

3. Which U.S. city hosts the largest display of fireworks on July 4th?
   a) Philadelphia
   b) Washington, D.C.
   c) New York
   d) Boston

   Answer: c) New York's Macy's Fourth of July fireworks display is the largest in the country, where 40,000 shells are fired from six barges.

4. When was the last year that the Liberty Bell was physically rung?
   a) 1976
   b) 1913
   c) 1777
   d) 1846

   Answer: d) In 1846, an attempted repair of the Liberty Bell furthered the iconic crack and rendered it un-ringable. It is now symbolically tapped 13 times on July 4th each year.
5. One out of every three hot dogs produced in the United States comes from which state that was formally recognized as a territory on July 4, 1838?
   a) Nebraska
   b) Oregon
   c) Maine
   d) Iowa

Answer: d) Iowa, which became the 29th state on December 28, 1846. Iowa is home to nearly twenty million pigs and hogs, more than any other state.

6. What percentage of grill-owning Americans are expected to barbecue on July 4th?
   a) 62%
   b) 71%
   c) 76%
   d) 84%

Answer: c) 76%. According to the Health, Patio, and Barbecue Association, the July 4th is the most popular occasion to grill.

7. Which U.S. president won a major military victory on July 4th?
   a) George Washington
   b) William Henry Harrison
   c) Ulysses S. Grant
   d) Dwight D. Eisenhower

Answer: a) Ulysses S. Grant. After a siege that lasted more than forty days, Confederate Lt. Gen. John Pemberton’s army surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant’s troops at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

8. Other than Charles Thompson, who was the only delegate to sign the Declaration of Independence on July 4th?
   a) John Hancock
   b) John Adams
   c) Benjamin Franklin
   d) Thomas Jefferson

Answer: a) John Hancock, the president of the Congress, and Charles Thompson, the secretary of the Congress, were the only two delegates to sign the declaration on July 4, 1776.

9. Which actress is a direct descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence?
   a) Julia Roberts
   b) Audrey Hepburn
   c) Meryl Streep

Answer: a) Julia Roberts
d) Reese Witherspoon

Answer: d) **Reese Witherspoon**. Witherspoon is a direct descendant of John Witherspoon, who signed the Declaration as a member of the New Jersey delegation to the Continental Congress.

10. Which famous American author was born on July 4?

   a) Nathaniel Hawthorne
   b) Herman Melville
   c) Ernest Hemingway
   d) Gore Vidal

Answer: a) **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, author of *The Scarlet Letter*, was born on July 4, 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts.

11. Which famous American songwriter was born on July 4?

   a) Irving Berlin
   b) Stephen Foster
   c) Bob Dylan
   d) Carole King

Answer: b) **Stephen Foster**, who wrote “Oh! Susanna,” was born on July 4, 1826 in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania.

12. How much are Americans expected to spend celebrating the Fourth of July this year?

   a) $3.1 billion
   b) $4.6 billion
   c) $6.8 billion
   d) $10 billion

Answer: c) The **National Retail Federation** estimates that Americans will spend $6.8 billion this July 4th. That works out to $71.34 per American household.

13. What percentage of Americans own an American flag?

   a) 50.5 percent
   b) 58.2 percent
   c) 63.8 percent
   d) 69.3 percent

Answer: d) According to WalletHub, **69.3 percent** of Americans own an American flag. There have been twenty-seven different official flags used in the last 240 years.