July 4 Trivia Quiz 2017

Answers

1. A rare eighteenth century copy of the Declaration of Independence was discovered in 2015 in a record office in which city?
   
   a) Paris, France  
   b) Billerica, Massachusetts  
   c) Ottawa, Canada  
   d) Chichester, England

   Answer: d) Emily Sneff and Danielle Allen found a parchment manuscript of the Declaration of Independence that dates to the 1780s at the West Sussex Record Office in Chichester, England.

2. In what year did Meriwether Lewis and William Clark hold the first-ever Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi river?
   
   a) 1789  
   b) 1804  
   c) 1823  
   d) 1837

   Answer: b) The first Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi took place on July 4, 1804. Lewis and Clark’s expedition drank whiskey, fired a cannon, and named a creek in what is now Kansas Independence Creek.

3. What did President Thomas Jefferson announce to the American people on July 4, 1803?
   
   a) The Louisiana Purchase  
   b) U.S. neutrality in the Napoleonic Wars  
   c) Completion of construction of the White House  
   d) End of the First Barbary War

   Answer: a) On July 4, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson publicly announced the completion of the Louisiana Purchase, which cost $15 million and doubled the size of the United States.

4. How many changes did the drafting committee for the Declaration of Independence make to Thomas Jefferson’s original draft?
   
   a) 0  
   b) 10  
   c) 34  
   d) 86

   Answer: d) The drafting committee made 86 changes before the final version of the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 2, 1776.
5. What food was popular at early Independence Day celebrations?

   a) Turtle soup  
   b) Rabbit  
   c) Turkey  
   d) Hot Dogs

Answer: a) Turtle soup was a common summertime delicacy during colonial times, especially in New England. John Adams reportedly enjoyed a bowl of turtle soup on the first Independence Day.

6. How many signers of the Declaration of Independence also signed the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution?

   a) 0  
   b) 2  
   c) 8  
   d) 13

Answer: b) Robert Morris (Pennsylvania) and Roger Sherman (Connecticut) were the only two people to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution.

7. Approximately how many new citizens were naturalized over last year's Fourth of July weekend?

   a) 7,000  
   b) 15,000  
   c) 35,000  
   d) 70,000

Answer: a) According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services more than 7,000 were naturalized between June 30 and July 4, 2016.

8. A dispute over which punctuation mark has sparked a debate about how to interpret the Declaration of Independence?

   a) Dash  
   b) Comma  
   c) Semicolon  
   d) Period

Answer: d) Standard transcripts of the Declaration of Independence place a period after the phrase “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The original document may not have contained a period, however, somewhat changing the declaration’s meaning.

9. Where was the Declaration of Independence stored during World War II?

   a) Defense Department  
   b) Fort Knox
c) National Archives  
d) White House

Answer: b) The Declaration of Independence was relocated from Washington, DC, to Fort Knox in Kentucky for safekeeping during World War II.

10. What is written upside-down on the backside of the Declaration of Independence?

   a) “Original Declaration of Independence / dated 4th July 1776”
   b) “T. Jefferson, Virginia”
   c) “Sic semper tyrannis!”
   d) Nothing

Answer: a) “Original Declaration of Independence / dated 4th July 1776” appears written upside-down on the backside of the Declaration of Independence. The inscription may have been written as a label during the Revolutionary War when the document was rolled up for transport.

11. Red, white, and blue were not common colors at early Independence Day celebrations. What color was?

   a) Black
   b) Purple
   c) Green
   d) Orange

Answer: c) Green was common in early Independence Day celebrations as soldiers often put greenery in their caps. Also, red, white, and blue paper was uncommon at the time.

12. Which state had the most signatories to the Declaration of Independence?

   a) Massachusetts
   b) New York
   c) Pennsylvania
   d) Virginia

Answer: c) Pennsylvania had nine signatories to the Declaration of Independence, two more than Virginia, four more than Massachusetts, and five more than New York.

13. Which was the first state to make July 4th a state holiday?

   a) Massachusetts
   b) New York
   c) Pennsylvania
   d) Virginia

Answer: a) Massachusetts was the first state to make July 4th a state holiday. It did so months before the United States secured its independence at the Battle of Yorktown.