

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

George Washington never lived in the White House?

Benjamin Franklin invented bifocals?

The music to "The Star-Spangled Banner" is from
a British drinking song?

As the Civil War broke out, Abraham Lincoln offered Robert E. Lee
command of the Union forces?

Alaska is our most northerly, westerly, and easterly state?

Recent surveys reveal that more Americans can name at least two members of the Simpsons' cartoon family than can name the first four American presidents in order. Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh have written the AMERICAN TRIVIA QUIZ BOOK to make your knowledge of our nation's history at least match the nation's knowledge of *The Simpsons*.

The AMERICAN TRIVIA QUIZ BOOK brims with fascinating facts about the people, places, and events that make our nation great. Impress (and stump) your friends with your knowledge of all things American. In the process, you'll find our national gifts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to be even more precious.

ISBN 978-1-4236-3726-4



9 781423 637264

\$9.99 U.S.

AMERICAN TRIVIA

Quiz book

RICHARD LEDERER
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AMERICAN

TRIVIA



JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT OUR
GREAT NATION?

RICHARD LEDERER & CAROLINE McCULLAGH

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN



“Honest Abe”

The *New York Herald* described **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN** thusly: “Lincoln is the leanest, lankiest, most ungainly mass of legs, arms, and hatchet-face ever strung upon a single frame. He has most unwarrantably abused the privilege which all politicians have of being ugly.”

That gangly fellow, who was born in a log cabin and grew up in grinding poverty with little formal education, became what many judge to be our greatest president.

1 One of the best known of American poems begins:

O Captain! My Captain! our fearful trip is done;

The ship has weathered every rack, the prize we sought is won.

Who wrote the poem, and what does it commemorate?

2 Who was the first president born in a log cabin?

3 What two presidents were born in Kentucky?



4 WHO IS THE ONLY AMERICAN PRESIDENT BORN IN ILLINOIS?



5 Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. What other famous man was born that day?

6 Who was our first bearded president?

7 What do **WILLIAM H. SEWARD**, **SIMON CAMERON**, **SALMON P. CHASE**, and **EDWARD BATES** have in common?

8 What is Abraham Lincoln's connection with Thanksgiving?

9 After President Lincoln relieved **GEORGE B. McCLELLAN** (1826–1885)

of his command on November 5, 1862, McClellan challenged Lincoln for the presidency in the 1864 election. What was the outcome?

10 What was different about Lincoln's serving a second term as president?

11 What happened at Lincoln's second inauguration for the first time?

12 Who assassinated Abraham Lincoln and where?

13 Name the three other presidents who were assassinated while in office.

14 What had been Abraham Lincoln's philosophy of postwar Reconstruction of the seceded states?

15 Ever since the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, historians have pointed out a number of striking similarities between Kennedy's death and Lincoln's. What are some of those coincidences?

16 WHAT HAPPENED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ASSASSIN AFTERWARDS?



17 On which coin does Lincoln appear?

18 On which bill of currency does Lincoln appear?

19 What do an owl and our sixteenth president have in common? 🦉

20 Which American president is the least guilty? 🦉

Answers

1. This poem by **WALT WHITMAN** commemorates the assassination of the captain of our ship of state, **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**, whom many call our greatest president.

2. No, it's not Lincoln. **ANDREW JACKSON** was the first president born in a log cabin, in 1767. Although several more have claimed it, there were only five others—Millard Fillmore (1800), James Buchanan (1791), Abraham Lincoln (1809), Andrew Johnson (1808), and James Garfield (1831).

3. Kentucky contributed a president to each side of the Civil War—**ABRAHAM LINCOLN** and **JEFFERSON DAVIS** (1808–1889).

4. Most would answer Abraham Lincoln. It's true that Abraham Lincoln was the first president born outside the original thirteen colonies—but in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Many believe incorrectly that he was born in Illinois. Lincoln spent much of his adult life in Illinois, but our only president who started life in Illinois

was **RONALD REAGAN** (1911–2004), born in Tampico.

5. The man whom some called an ape, a baboon, and (impossibly) an ape baboon, was born the same day as **CHARLES DARWIN** (1809–1882), who propounded the theory of evolution.

6. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN** was our first bearded president. Some say he was responding to a letter from an eleven-year-old girl, Grace Bedell, who suggested that a beard would improve his appearance. Benjamin Harrison was the last bearded president and the mustachioed William Howard Taft the last to sport facial hair. William McKinley was the only clean-shaven president between Andrew Johnson and Woodrow Wilson. From Abraham Lincoln through Benjamin Harrison, every president to have a beard was a Republican.

7. Seward, Cameron, Chase, and Bates were all members of Lincoln's cabinet, even though they had run against him for the presidency in 1860.

8. In 1863, Lincoln, hoping to unite a sundered nation, issued a proclamation declaring Thanksgiving to be a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. He did this at the urging of Sarah Josepha Hale (1788–1879), the prolific author and influential editor of *Godey's Lady's Book* magazine, who wrote the children's rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

9. George McClellan was soundly defeated in the election. He resigned from the military the same day.

10. Between Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln, eight successive presidents served a single term or less—**MARTIN VAN BUREN** (1837–1841), **WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON** (1841), **JOHN TYLER** (1841–1845), **JAMES POLK** (1845–1849), **ZACHARY TAYLOR** (1849–1850), **MILLARD FILLMORE** (1850–1853), **FRANKLIN PIERCE** (1853–1857), and **JAMES BUCHANAN** (1857–1861).

11. Lincoln's second inauguration marked the first time that African Americans participated in the inaugural parade. Four companies of African

American troops and lodges of Odd Fellows and Masons marched.

12. On April 14, 1865, five days after the end of the Civil War, he was fatally shot by the actor **JOHN WILKES BOOTH** (1838–1865), in Ford's Theatre, located in Washington, D.C.

13. **JAMES GARFIELD** (1881), **WILLIAM MCKINLEY** (1901), and **JOHN F. KENNEDY** (1963).

14. Lincoln's policy is outlined in his second inaugural address. The Union should be reconstructed not with a goal of punishment of the rebellious states but "with malice toward none; with charity for all."

15. Lincoln and Kennedy repeatedly spoke of having vivid dreams of assassination attempts. Each was warned by advisers not to attend the fatal event.

Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theatre, Kennedy in a Ford automobile—a Lincoln. Each was shot on a Friday in the back of the head with his wife nearby. Both assassins—**JOHN WILKES BOOTH** and **LEE HARVEY OSWALD**—were known by three names totaling fifteen letters.