




# Expert Quiz on the US


Gamification

## - Teacher's Insights -

### At a Glance

-  60-120 minutes
-  B1, **B2**, C1, C2
-  speaking, culture, question practice

### Preparation

-  0-5 minutes
- If using the printed version, print one quiz for each team or each student.
- Print the Teacher's Insights or keep them at hand as they contain the answers to the quiz.

### Quiz Summary

There are 48 questions over 8 categories:

- Political Geography
- Natural Geography
- Gastronomy
- Infrastructure
- Symbols and Folklore
- Culture & Festivities
- Language
- Heritage

Have fun with this expert general knowledge quiz on the US! Divide students into groups, simulate a pub quiz, or even have fun asking them as quick-fire questions. You will find the answers and some other useful info below.

**Timing:** This quiz contains 48 questions.

#### One-hour class

- Option A: giving the questions directly after each question, you should allow one minute for each question (10 seconds to read the question, 30 seconds of discussion, and 20 seconds to give each right answer).
- Option B: allowing students to complete the quiz in their own time, they should be allowed 40 minutes (just under a minute per question) leaving 15 minutes for answers and feedback

#### Two-hour class

- Option A: giving the questions directly after each question, you should allow between 120 and 150 seconds for each question (10 seconds to read the question, 90 seconds of discussion, and 20-50 seconds to give each right answer).
- Option B: allowing students to complete the quiz in their own time, they should be allowed 90 minutes (about one minute thirty per question) leaving 25 minutes for answers and feedback

You will find the answers to the quiz and extra information on the following pages.

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### Political Geography

1. What is the full name of the United States? = [United States of America](#)
2. How many states make up the United States? = 50
3. What US state has the highest population? = [California](#)
4. Despite not being its capital, which is the most populated city in the US? = [New York](#)
5. In 1959, which were the last two states to be incorporated into the United States? = [Alaska and Hawaii](#)
6. Approximately how many people live in the US?
  - a. around 220 million
  - [b. around 330 million](#)
  - c. around 440 million

### Natural Geography

7. The United States is known for its diverse terrain. What is its largest mountain range? = [The Rocky Mountains, stretching 3,000 miles \(4,800 kilometres\) from Canada to New Mexico](#)
8. At almost exactly the same length, 2,341 miles long vs 2,340 miles long (3,768 km vs 3,766 km), what are the two longest rivers in the US? = [Missouri River and Mississippi River respectively](#)
9. What is the name of the canyon in the Southwest of the United States which is famous for being the largest in the world and also for its layers of colorful rock? = [the Grand Canyon](#)
10. What US state is known for its geysers and hot springs?  
= [Wyoming \(Yellowstone National Park\)](#)
11. What is the rainiest US state? = [Hawaii](#)
12. What is the name of the sea to the south of the United States with coastline on five states: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida? = [the Gulf of Mexico](#)

### Food & Drink

13. A poke bowl, a dish that involves diced raw fish, was popularized in which US state?  
= [Hawaii](#)
14. Which city is famous for its deep-dish pizza? = [Chicago](#)
15. What company, founded in Seattle in 1971, is the largest coffeehouse chain in the world?  
= [Starbucks](#)
16. What is the official state fruit of Florida, often associated with breakfast juice? = [the orange](#)
17. The s'more, a campfire treat made of chocolate and marshmallows sandwiched between two crackers, gets its name from a contraction of what phrase? = ["some more"](#)
18. Which southern US city is known for a stewed rice dish called "Jambalaya"? = [New Orleans](#)

### Infrastructure

19. With more than 800 miles of track, what city boasts the largest subway system in the United States? = [New York City](#)
20. What is the name of the dam on the Colorado River that creates Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States by volume? = [Hoover Dam](#)

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21. Which West Coast city has a famous orange-red suspension bridge known as the Golden Gate Bridge? = [San Francisco](#)
22. What is the name of the famous highway that originally ran from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, and was known as the Main Street of America? = [Route 66](#)
23. What is the name of the canal, completed in 1825, that connected the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River, thus playing a key role in the westward expansion of the United States? = [The Erie Canal](#)
24. What US city is home to the world's first skyscraper, built in 1885? = [Chicago](#)

## Symbols & Folklore

25. Considered a symbol of freedom and power, what bird is the national bird and symbol of the United States? = [bald eagle](#)
26. The Stars and Stripes, the flag of the United States, consists of 13 horizontal stripes alternating red and white, and a blue field with 50 white stars. What do the 13 stripes represent? = [the 13 original colonies that formed the United States](#)
27. What is the national flower of the United States? = [the rose](#)
28. The United States' Great Seal features an eagle holding 13 arrows in one talon and an olive branch in the other. What do these items symbolize?  
= [the arrows represent war and the olive branch represents peace](#)
29. What mythical creature of North American folklore is often reported to be a large, hairy, two-legged humanoid and is also known as Sasquatch? = [Bigfoot](#)
30. In New England folklore, what is the name of the ghostly figure without a head who haunts Sleepy Hollow? = [the headless horseman](#)

## Culture and Festivities

31. What day is celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of November, often involving a feast of turkey and various side dishes? = [Thanksgiving](#)
32. What song do American people sing on New Year's Eve to ring in the new year?  
= [Auld Lang Syne](#). (The British also sing [Auld Lang Syne](#) at midnight to ring in the new year.)
33. Which city in the United States is famous for its annual Mardi Gras celebrations, featuring parades and masquerade balls? = [New Orleans](#)
34. In honor of Mexican-American culture, what holiday is celebrated on May fifth, often with parades, music, and dancing? = [Cinco de Mayo](#)
35. What is the name of the large music festival that takes place over two weekends in April in Indio, California, and is known for its popular and indie music performances, as well as art installations? = [Coachella](#)
36. On which date do Americans annually celebrate Independence Day, often commemorating with fireworks, parades, and barbecues? = [July 4<sup>th</sup>](#)

