American Trivia and Americana

John Brender, Ph.D.
Who has the most famous signature in U.S. history?
Trivia: The Hot Dog
Frankfurters > Dachsund
Sausages > Hot Dogs (1906)
Who invented the blue jeans?
Who first wore blue jeans?
What year?
Were the first blue jeans blue?
Levi Strauss
Miners.
1850.
No—they were “colorless”
Automobiles

• Who invented the auto assembly line?
• What was the name of the first Ford car?
• In 1908, Ford’s car cost $850 and took 14 hours to build. After the assembly line, how much did Ford’s car cost and how long did it take to build?
• Henry Ford.
• The Model T
• $265; 2 hours
• Name the “Big Three” American automakers.
Aviation
• What two people are credited with inventing the airplane?
• Where and when did the first flight take place?
• Wilbur and Orville Wright are credited with the first flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in 1901.
Photography

Who made photography available to common people?

When and where did this happen?

What was the name of the company this person founded?
Photography

• George Eastman invented the box camera in 1888 in Rochester New York. The box camera allowed people to take their own pictures and have their film developed by others. Eastman founded the Kodak company.
Baseball

When was the National League formed?
When was the American League formed?
When was the first World Series?
Baseball

- The National League formed in 1876
- The American League formed in 1901
- The first World Series was played in 1903
Baseball: Name the cities that have baseball teams.
• Who is credited for inventing the game of basketball? Where and when did this take place?
• Dr. James Naismith is credited with inventing the game of basketball in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1891.
NBA Cities

NBA Basketball Teams in the U.S. and Canada

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The 49ers

• Who were the 49ers? What did they do? Which state did they flock to?
Which animal is the symbol of the United States?
The White House
• What is the address of the White House?
• What was the original color of the White House?
• Who was the first president to live in the White House?
• When and why was the White House painted white?
- 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.
- The original color was gray.
- John Adams was the first president to live in the White House in 1800.
- The White House was burned by the British in 1814 and was repainted white to cover the burns. Formerly known as the Presidential Palace, it became known as the White House.
Who invented the telephone?
In what year?
What were the first words spoken on the telephone?
Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. The first words spoken were, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want you.”
Where is the statue of Liberty? Which country presented the Statue of Liberty to the United States? In what year?
The Statue of Liberty is in New York Harbor. It was given to the U.S. by France in 1886.
Hollywood

• Why was Hollywood an attractive place for movie studios?
Hollywood was an attractive place because of its warm and sunny weather. It was ideal for filming outdoors from its beginning in 1917.
Uncle Sam

I WANT YOU...
Was Uncle Sam a real person?
Yes. He was a meat packer for the U.S. government named Samuel Wilson. He stamped boxes of meat with “U.S.” for “United States” but many joked that “U.S.” stood for “Uncle Sam.”
Thanksgiving

• What is Thanksgiving?
• When is it celebrated?
• What is commonly eaten on Thanksgiving?
• When did Thanksgiving become a national holiday?
Thanksgiving answers

• Thanksgiving is a day for giving thanks.
• It is celebrated the fourth Thursday of November.
• Turkey is commonly eaten on Thanksgiving?
• Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863.
Hamburgers

• When were hamburgers first served on a bun?
• When and where did the first McDonald’s restaurant open?
Hamburgers

- Hamburgers were first served on a bun at the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904.
- McDonald’s first opened in California in 1949.
Mount Rushmore
Where is Mt. Rushmore?
Who are the four presidents whose faces appear on Mt. Rushmore?
Mt. Rushmore is in South Dakota.
The faces of the four American presidents are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.
Coca Cola
What was the original purpose of Coca Cola?

In what American city did Coca Cola originate?
Coca Cola was introduced in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1886 as a medicine to cure many problems. It soon became a fountain drink.
What was the significance of the book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”?
It was a novel published by Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1852 which showed the cruelty of slavery.
What famous institution did former nurse, Clara Barton, found in 1881?
The American Red Cross
Rock & Roll

• What was the first rock & roll hit in the U.S.? What year did this occur?
Rock & Roll

• “Rock around the Clock” Bill Haley and the Comets, 1955.
Rock & Roll

• Who is considered the “King of Rock & Roll?”
Rock & Roll

• Elvis Presley
• Where was Elvis born?

• Where is Elvis buried?
• Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

• He is buried at his Graceland Mansion in Memphis, Tennessee.
Country Music

• What is the capitol of Country Music in the U.S.?
Country Music

- Nashville, Tennessee.
States and capitols Quiz
Superman Trivia
Name the first five amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
Name the three branches of the U.S. Government.
Name the two houses of Congress. Why are there two houses?
Explain how American education is different from Chinese education?