

HARD HISTORY TRIVIA QUESTIONS



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- 1> Although he was born in Fairfield, Vermont, rumors swirled that which president was actually born in Canada?
- 2> Who was the 81st person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, and the 67th to fly non-stop?
- 3> What were Mohandas Gandhi's brahmacharya experiments?
- 4> Desperate for heirs, Henry VIII had six wives. But how many grandkids did he have?
- 5> What state joined the United States in 1845, but with a provision allowing it to break itself up later into five states?
- 6> What Scourge of God could have conquered Europe if he hadn't died of a nosebleed on his wedding night, with a young girl named Ildiko (aka Hilda)?
- 7> What country once had such horrible inflation that it printed (but never issued) a one hundred million trillion pengo note?
- 8> In 1985, what former calypso singer launched a door-to-door health and beauty company called POWER?
- 9> President Ahmed Bey Zogu turned himself into King Zog I and ruled what country with his American-born wife?
- 10> On January 15, 1919, a 15-foot, 2-million-gallon tidal wave of molasses killed 21 people in what city's North End, leaving it smelling of gingerbread for decades after?
- 11> The Thirty Years' War began with something called the Defenestration of Prague. What is a defenestration?
- 12> What "Mother of Presidents" produced seven Republican presidents (or eight, depending on how you count)?

13> My half-brother Alois apparently married an Irish lass named Brigid Dowling, whom he met at a horse show in 1909. My half-nephew William Patrick served in the US Navy during the World War II. Who am I?

14> What country defeated Zanzibar in the shortest war in history, lasting less than an hour on the morning of August 27, 1896?

15> In 2001, Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, aka Simeon Saksoburggotski, became prime minister of a country he once ruled as King Simeon II. Which one?

Answers:

1> Chester Arthur - Fairfield is practically on the border.

2> Charles Lindbergh - Before he did this, two dirigibles also made non-stop flights, carrying 64 people between them. His main achievement in 1927 was that he flew both non-stop and alone.

3> Sleeping platonically with naked young women - He was testing his ability to resist temptation.

4> None - Three of his kids became monarchs, but boy-king Edward VI died childless, as did Mary and Elizabeth.

5> Texas - The 1845 congressional resolution does bar any of the five new states from adopting slavery.

6> Attila the Hun - Attila the Hun harassed the eastern half of the Roman Empire during the 440s, and then devastated the western half in the 450s.

7> Hungary - It had to replace its currency when it hit a rate of 400 quintillion pengo for every 1 forint.

8> Louis Farrakhan - As a singer, he was known as the Charmer.

9> Albania - He spent most of his reign drinking and playing poker before being evicted in 1939 by the Italians. Enver Hoxha formally deposed of him in 1946.

10> Boston - A huge cast-iron tank of the Purity Distilling Company burst open and sent a two-storey high wave of raw black molasses down Commercial Street.

11> Throwing something out a window - Angry Protestant Bohemians threw two of the king's ministers from a window at Prague Castle.

12> Ohio - The most recent was Harding.

13> Adolf Hitler - William Patrick Hitler was stranded in the US during WWII. After the war, he changed the family name to Stuart-Houston.

14> Great Britain - The 38-minute conflict (some say 45 minutes) was probably the shortest war ever.

15> Bulgaria - He had become tsar when he was six in 1887, when his father died mysteriously on his return to Sofia after a dinner meeting with Adolf Hitler. After losing power, he lived in Alexandria with his grandfather, Italy's Victor Emanuel, and then was offered sanctuary by Franco.

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