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A Potpourri of Presidential Trivia

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Just in time for President's Day, let's see how much you know about some of our presidents.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. No scoring on this game. Just see how well you can do.

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Instructions: Let's see how much you know about the US presidents.

QUESTIONS

1. Nine US presidents (more than 20%) did not attend college! How many of them can you name?
2. Eight presidents were born in Virginia. How many of them can you name?
3. Who was the youngest elected president? And the oldest?
4. Who was the tallest president? And the shortest?
5. Which presidents were related?
6. Eight presidents have died in office (four by assassination). How many of them can you name?
7. Who would become president if both the president and the vice president died?
8. Who was the first president to have a pilot's license?
9. Who was the first president to be born in a hospital?
10. Which US presidents have been impeached, i.e., formally accused of wrongdoing?
11. The names of two US presidents were legally changed due to adoption. Can you identify them?
12. How many of the eight left-handed presidents can you name?
13. Which President became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court after his presidency?
14. Which two presidents had only one child?

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ANSWERS

1. George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Grover Cleveland, and Harry Truman
2. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson
3. The youngest elected president was John F. Kennedy at age 43. The youngest president to be inaugurated was Theodore Roosevelt at age 42, following the assassination of William McKinley. At age 77, Joe Biden is the oldest elected president (beating out 69-year-old Ronald Reagan).
4. The tallest president was Abraham Lincoln (6'4"). The shortest was James Madison (5' 4").
5. There have been two sets of presidents who were father and son: John Adams and John Quincy Adams; and George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush. But there were other presidents who were also related: William H. Harrison and Benjamin Harrison (grandfather and grandson); James Madison and Zachary Taylor (second cousins); and Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt (fifth cousins).
6. William Henry Harrison (1841) died of pneumonia.
Zachary Taylor (1850) died from a bacterial infection of the small intestine.
Abraham Lincoln (1865) died by assassination.
James Garfield (1881) died from blood poisoning resulting from doctors probing with non-sterile instruments for an assassin's bullet.
William McKinley (1901) died by assassination.
Warren G. Harding (1923) died from either a heart attack or a stroke. (Harding's wife refused to allow an autopsy to be performed.)
Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945) died from a cerebral hemorrhage.
John F. Kennedy (1963) died by assassination.
7. The Speaker of the House
8. Dwight Eisenhower was issued a pilot's license on November 30, 1939.
9. Jimmy Carter

10. President Andrew Johnson stood trial for impeachment in 1868. The impeachment vote did not pass in the Senate. President Bill Clinton stood trial for impeachment. The Senate acquitted Clinton on Feb. 12, 1999. President Donald Trump was impeached twice in his four-year term. *(Note: The House Judiciary Committee issued three articles of impeachment against President Nixon on July 30, 1974, but President Nixon resigned before the process was completed.)*
11. Gerald Rudolph Ford's name was changed from Leslie King, Jr. when his mother remarried and his stepfather legally adopted him. William Jefferson Clinton's name was changed from William Jefferson Blythe after his mother remarried and his stepfather legally adopted him.
12. James A. Garfield, Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama
13. William Howard Taft
14. Harry Truman and Bill Clinton. *(Note: The Eisenhowers had two sons, but one died of scarlet fever at age three.)*