

12/17/23

2023 – The Year in Review

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

2023 — yet another remarkable year! Here's a quiz that includes just a few of the significant events that occurred last year. Let's see how many of them you remember.

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 player/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 others may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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QUESTIONS

1. Which former Republican governor announced his candidacy for president as the anti-Trump Republican choice? He described Mr. Trump as “a lonely, self-consumed, self-serving, mirror hog.”
2. In January, Prince Harry published his memoir, which detailed many controversial claims about the British royal family. What is the title of Harry’s book?
3. Why did the price of eggs reach incredible heights of nearly \$10 per dozen in the US and around the world?
4. Radicalized by far-right conspiracy theories and Donald Trump’s false claims that the 2020 election was stolen, 42-year-old David Pape broke into the home of this political representative and beat her 82-year-old husband with a hammer.
5. After tracking this object in the airspace across North America, President Biden, in consultation with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau, sent a military plane to shoot it down.
6. This quarterback announced his second retirement from the NFL in two years, saying this time “It’s for good”?
7. The White House gave all federal agencies 30-days’ notice to remove this China-based app (considered a national security risk) from all government-issued devices, including computers, phones, tablets, etc.
8. Which member of the US Senate took a leave from work for several weeks in the spring after being hospitalized for clinical depression?
9. What environmentalist and vocal anti-vaxxer announced his intention to run for president as a Democrat (and later as an Independent) against Joe Biden in 2024?
10. Can you name the voting machine company that successfully sued Fox news for knowingly telling lies when they accused the company of rigging the 2020 presidential election?
11. What two film and television unions had lengthy strikes in 2023?
12. What was the historic location of the coronation of King Charles (the former Prince of Wales) held in early May of 2023?
13. Can you name the woman, a former magazine writer, who won her case against former president Donald Trump after a jury came back with a guilty verdict on charges of sexual abuse and defamation?
14. The first 2024 Republican presidential debate took place in August of 2023. Can you name the eight participants?

15. The Writer's Guild picket lines in New York were halted, and the city was declared to have the worst air quality of any city in the world, due to what cause?
16. After 41 seasons on the job, this game show host announced his retirement ... but not until 2024.
17. Following Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, these two countries applied for membership in NATO last year as protection against Russian aggression.
18. The Wagner Group, led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, was a mercenary organization and a key fighter in Putin's battle against Ukraine until Prigozhin attempted a coup against Putin. The coup was put down the next day. What happened to Prigozhin a couple of months later?
19. In 2023, four criminal indictments were filed against Donald Trump. Two are on state charges, and two are indictments on federal charges.
What is the key charge in New York and in Georgia?
What is the key charge in the federal indictment in Florida?
What is the key charge in the federal indictment in Washington, DC?
20. The word "Barbenheimer" was coined in the summer of 2023. What does it mean?
21. According to reporting in ProPublica, which Supreme Court Justice accepted numerous lavish gifts over the last two decades from billionaire Republican megadonor Harlan Crow?
22. After he bought the social media site Twitter, Elon Musk changed the name of the company to this.
23. This 76-year-old Republican senator from Utah announced in September that he would not run for reelection in 2024.
24. How many ballots did it take a fractured Republican caucus in the House of Representatives to elect a Speaker back in January? And whom did they (finally) elect?
25. Before the year was out, Florida Representative Matt Gaetz led the effort to remove Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Who was elected to replace McCarthy?
26. After a win at the World Gymnastics Championship, this 26-year-old American athlete became the most decorated gymnast of all time.
27. On October 7th, this militant terrorist group waged a brutal full-scale surprise attack on Israel from air, sea, and ground.
28. In a year with 627 mass shootings (incidents with at least four injuries or deaths), the most deadly one (so far) in 2023 occurred in November at a bowling alley and bar in this state.
29. In a rare bipartisan vote, this US representative was expelled from Congress after a House Ethics Committee investigation released a scathing report that the congressman had "sought to fraudulently exploit every aspect of his House candidacy for his own personal financial profit."
30. According to a letter signed by 350 high tech researchers, executives, and scientists, what kind of technology poses a serious risk of extinction to the human race?

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ANSWERS

1. Chris Christie, former governor of New Jersey
2. *Spare*, which is a reference to “the heir and a spare,” an age-old phrase indicating the need for any monarchy to have a secure line of succession. In the British royal family, the present heir is Prince William, while Prince Harry grew up as the “spare.”
3. A deadly avian flu caused widespread shortages of eggs.
4. Nancy Pelosi. DePape’s plan (such as it was) was to kidnap Mrs. Pelosi.
5. A large Chinese spy balloon ... although China claimed it was a weather balloon gone astray. Recovery of the debris revealed intelligence-gathering technology, though experts believe it was “not a major breach.”
6. Tom Brady
7. TikTok. The ban came amid concerns that the Chinese government could gain access to information collected from users of TikTok for intelligence purposes.
8. Senator John Fetterman of Pennsylvania
9. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
10. Dominion Voting Machines. In the largest known defamation settlement, Fox was required to pay nearly a billion dollars to Dominion. Although Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson, Laura Ingraham admitted to spreading lies on the air, only Tucker Carlson was fired.
11. The Writer’s Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild (SAG)
12. Westminster Abbey in London
13. E. Jean Carroll, who was awarded \$5 million in damages in this civil case. And because Trump continued to defame Ms. Carroll even after that court decision, a second trial will begin in mid-January of 2024.
14. Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota, Former Governor of New Jersey Chris Christie, Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida, Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, Former Governor of Arkansas Asa Hutchinson, Former Vice President Mike Pence, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina.
15. Smoke from Canadian wildfires
16. Pat Sajak. Later in 2023, the *Wheel of Fortune* production company announced that Ryan Seacrest would replace Pat Sajak.
17. Finland and Sweden
18. He died in a plane crash. It is widely assumed that the death of Prigozhin was ordered by Vladimir Putin.

19. The key charge in New York and in Georgia:
In New York, Mr. Trump is facing 34 criminal charges of falsifying business records related to the Stormy Daniels payoff before the 2016 presidential election. (This trial is scheduled for May, 2024). In Georgia, Mr. Trump faces 13 criminal charges of election interference by attempting to overturn Joe Biden's victory in Georgia. (This trial is not yet scheduled.)
The key charge in the federal indictment in Florida:
Mr. Trump faces 40 criminal charges alleging the mishandling of sensitive documents and conspiracy to obstruct government efforts to retrieve these documents. (This trial is scheduled for May, 2024.)
The key charge in the federal indictment in Washington, DC:
Mr. Trump faces four criminal charges of conspiracy to defraud the government and disenfranchise voters, and of corruptly obstructing an official proceeding. (This trial is scheduled for March 4, 2024.)
20. "Barbenheimer" is a merging of the two major motion pictures *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*, the first real blockbuster film openings since the COVID-19 pandemic.
21. Clarence Thomas
22. X
23. Mitt Romney, who does not like the antidemocratic, authoritarian current rising in the Republican Party. Romney also cited his age as being another key factor for his decision to retire.
24. It took 15 ballots, over 4 days, to elect California Congressman Kevin McCarthy.
25. Rep. Mike Johnson (R) of Louisiana
26. Simone Biles
27. Hamas, the governing organization of the Gaza Strip. Thousands of Israelis were killed, wounded, or taken hostage in the attacks, which ignited a full-scale war between the two combatants.
28. Maine. 18 people were killed and 13 others injured in the town of Lewiston.
29. George Santos of New York
30. AI (Artificial Intelligence). According to the very distinguished group of signatories to the letter, the danger to the human race that AI poses should be a global priority, alongside "other societal-scale risks such as pandemics, climate change, and nuclear war."