

8/17/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

Iowa

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

We're bringing back this popular quiz – updated and improved. Each week (ish), we'll explore one US state. This week, we've randomly selected **IOWA**. Let's see how much you know about this state, where the trampoline and the Eskimo pie were both invented.

Instructions:

1. Divide the players evenly into teams (or as closely as possible).
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 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. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

8/17/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

Iowa

Instructions: Find out how much you know about IOWA from this quiz.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of Iowa?
2. The population of Des Moines is roughly 215,000. Only two other Iowa cities have populations greater than 100,000. Can you name them?
3. Iowa is the only US state whose east and west borders are formed entirely by rivers. Can you name two of those three rivers?
4. English is by far the most common language spoken in Iowa, used by 94% of the population. Can you name the next two most common languages spoken in Iowan homes?
5. Every year since 1854, starting on the second Thursday in August, a million people attend this 11-day Iowa event – one of the largest of its kind in the US.
6. And speaking of the Iowa State Fair: 2011 was the 100th anniversary of the artistic exhibit in which a cow is sculpted out of this material.
7. Although manufacturing comprises the largest portion of Iowa's economy, Iowa is the nation's largest producer of this grain ... and in some years, of this bean as well.
8. Begun in 1936, the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa is a highly regarded creative writing program. Some of its graduates and/or faculty include Wallace Stegner, John Cheever, and this author of *The World According to Garp* and *The Hotel New Hampshire*.
9. This is the only presidential library in Iowa ... because he was the only US president from Iowa.
10. Dyersville, Iowa wasn't particularly well known until the producers of this movie built a baseball diamond there.
11. This company, employer of "The World's Loneliest Repairman," was founded and is still headquartered in Newton, Iowa.
12. Why does Iowa get significant national attention every four years?

Can you name these famous Iowans?

13. She was born Mary Geneva Doud in 1896 in Boone, Iowa. She became the First Lady of the United States at the age of 57.
14. Born in Dennison, Iowa in 1921, she played Mary Bailey opposite James Stewart's George Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*.
15. Born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1948, he played Gopher on *The Love Boat*, and later represented Iowa in the House of Representatives from 1987 to 1995.
16. Shawn Johnson was born in Des Moines in 1992. At the Beijing Olympics in 2008, she won one gold and two silver medals in which sport?
17. This fictional character, played by actor Gary Burghoff in both the film and television series *M*A*S*H*, hailed from Ottumwa, Iowa.
18. Jerry Mathers, born in Sioux City, Iowa, is best remembered as a child star of this TV series that aired between 1957 and 1963.
19. This painter, a lifelong Iowan, was born in Anamosa in 1891, and died in Iowa City in 1942, one day short of his 51st birthday. His most famous work is *American Gothic*, which has become an iconic example of 20th-century American art.

8/17/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

Iowa

ANSWERS

1. Des Moines
2. Cedar Rapids (135,000) and Davenport (101,000)
3. The Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Big Sioux
4. Spanish is the second-most common, and German is the third-most common language.
5. The Iowa State Fair
6. Butter
7. Corn (the grain) and soybeans
8. John Irving
9. Herbert Hoover
10. *Field of Dreams*
11. Maytag
12. Iowa holds the first of the US presidential caucuses, which have come to be seen as the starting point for choosing the two major party candidates of the general election.

Famous Iowans:

13. Mamie Eisenhower
14. Donna Reed
15. Fred Grandy
16. Gymnastics
17. Walter "Radar" O'Reilly
18. *Leave It To Beaver*
19. Grant Wood