

11/9/25 How Much Do You Know About ...?

Idaho

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Each week, we have been testing your American know-how — state by state, from sea to shining sea. We only have three states left; so this week, let's explore **IDAHO**, where the first chairlift was invented (Sun Valley, 1936) and the first all-electronic television was invented by high-schooler Philo Farnsworth (Rigby, 1927).

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.

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QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of Idaho?
2. What is the two-letter postal abbreviation for Idaho?
3. Idaho is surrounded by which six states?
4. Idaho shares a narrow border with this westernmost Canadian province.
5. Although Idaho's nickname is "The Gem State," the motto on the state's license plate honors what other well known Idaho export?
6. Can you name the brown-skinned variety of baking potato, commonly used by fast food restaurants for French fries, that is Idaho's most popular?
7. With a population of 226,000 people, Boise is by far the largest city in Idaho. Can you name one of the state's top eight largest cities, other than Boise?
8. Snake River Canyon in southern Idaho gained fame in 1974 as the sight of an unsuccessful "motorcycle" jump by what American daredevil and entertainer?
9. Idaho is second only to Utah in its number of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who are also known by this name.
10. What brand of frozen French fries derives its name from the first few letters of "Idaho," preceded by the first few letters of Idaho's neighboring state, where the company is headquartered?
11. In July 1961, this Nobel Prize-winning author of *The Old Man and the Sea* committed suicide at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.
12. Until 2017, Idaho was one of only a few states that had just one of these. (California, on the other hand, has 35.)
13. Idaho's eastern border is brushed by this national park, home to "Old Faithful."

Name these notable Idahoans:

14. Although she is best known as the one-time governor of Alaska, she was actually born in Sandpoint, Idaho in 1964.
15. Born in Wallace, Idaho in 1921, this actress gained fame and fortune in the 1940s and '50s as Hollywood's "Sweater Girl."
16. Before he started writing his popular series of books featuring this iconic character, Edgar Rice Burroughs was a (not very successful) rancher and gold dredger near Pocatello, Idaho.
17. For the last 30 years of her life, this actress, who won an Academy Award at age 15 for her role as a young Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, lived in Hayden, Idaho.
18. This Olympic gold medal-winning skier was born in Triumph, Idaho in 1971.
(Hint: Her first name sounds like a popular game that's played with babies.)
19. W. Mark Felt, a former Associate Director of the FBI, was born in Twin Falls, Idaho in 1913. But for more than 30 years, beginning in the early 1970s, his true identity was hidden by this alias, given to him by *The Washington Post*.
20. Born near present-day Salmon, Idaho in 1788, this Native American accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition as an interpreter and guide.

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ANSWERS

1. Boise (which locals pronounce "boy-see," rather than "boy-zee")
2. ID
3. Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming
4. British Columbia. (The border is just 48 miles long.)
5. Potatoes. Idaho license plates read "Famous Potatoes."
6. Russet
7. Idaho Falls, Nampa, Pocatello, Meridian, Caldwell, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, and Twin Falls
8. Evel Knievel. Knievel attempted to jump the gorge aboard a jet-powered "Skycycle." The stunt failed when the safety parachute opened shortly after take-off. Knievel and the Skycycle fell almost 500 feet to the canyon floor. Miraculously, he suffered only minor injuries.
9. The Mormons. Idaho's first permanent settlement was founded in 1860 by members of the Mormon church. Mormon religion and culture are especially prevalent in the eastern part of the state.
10. Ore-Ida
11. Ernest Hemingway
12. Telephone area codes. Idaho now has two.
13. Yellowstone National Park. Although it is located primarily in Wyoming, roughly 1% of Yellowstone extends into eastern Idaho.

Notable Idahoans:

14. Sarah Palin
15. Lana Turner
16. Tarzan
17. Patty Duke
18. Picabo (pronounced "Peek-a-boo") Street
19. Deep Throat. Felt was the informant who helped journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in the Watergate investigation of the 1970s, which both he and they finally revealed in 2005.
20. Sacagawea