

8/24/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

Missouri

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

Each week (ish), we explore one US state. This week, we've randomly selected **MISSOURI**. Let's see how much you know about this state, where the ice cream cone and the popular soda 7-Up were invented – and where the first public kindergarten was established.

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

QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of Missouri?
2. There are fourteen cities in Missouri that are larger in population than Jefferson City; but we only want you to name three of the top five.
3. Missouri lies at the confluence of these three great North American rivers.
4. Missouri has the distinction of being one of the two US states (along with Tennessee) that shares a border with the most states. How many of the eight states that border Missouri can you name?
5. What is Missouri's well known nickname?
6. What is the name of the St. Louis monument (623 ft. tall) that was designed by Eero Saarinen in 1947, built between 1963 and 1965, and commemorates the westward expansion of the United States?
7. Patee House, a St. Joseph, Missouri luxury hotel built in the 1850s, housed the headquarters and served as the starting point for this private delivery service that carried mail across the continent in ten days.
8. Independence, Missouri was also an historic starting point. It marked the beginning of this 2,000-mile-long wagon route that was traveled especially by families who wanted to start a new life in the Pacific northwest.
9. St. Charles, Missouri served as the starting point in 1804, and the return destination in 1806, for these two adventurers who were sent by Thomas Jefferson to explore, for both scientific and commercial reasons, the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase.
10. Can you name the only US president who hailed from Missouri?
11. Missouri has two professional baseball teams — one in the American League and the other in the National League. Can you name both?
12. Two Kansas City, Missouri brothers founded this American tax preparation company in 1955. It is still headquartered in Kansas City.

13. Born in Hungary in 1885, he emigrated to the United States in his late teens and went on to make a fortune as the publisher of the *St. Louis Dispatch* and the *New York World*. In his will, he established this most prestigious prize for achievement in journalism.
14. This famous aviator named his plane after the Missouri city he lived in when he made the first non-stop solo flight from New York to Paris. Can you name the aviator and his plane?
15. Born in 1963, this actor grew up in Springfield, Missouri and attended the University of Missouri before going to Hollywood. He is probably as well known for his relationships with Jennifer Aniston and Angelina Jolie as for his movies.
16. Born in West Plains, Missouri in 1925, he played Albert Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Bert the chimney sweep in *Mary Poppins*, and Rob Petrie on television.
17. Most Americans know Mark Twain's lifelong connections to Missouri; but can you name these other Missouri writers?
 - a. This poet, author of "The Waste Land" and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," grew up in St. Louis; but after attending Harvard College, he only returned to St. Louis on occasional visits.
 - b. Born in Mississippi, this author of *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* grew up and attended college in Missouri.
18. Born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1917, this Academy Award-winning actress was Ronald Reagan's first wife. He was her third (of four) husbands.
19. Born in Crystal City, Missouri in 1943, he was a Rhodes scholar, a Hall of Fame professional basketball player, and a three-term senator from New Jersey.

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ANSWERS

1. Jefferson City
2. Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, Independence, Columbia
3. The Mississippi, the Missouri, and the Ohio
4. Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska
5. The "Show Me" State
6. The Gateway Arch, which is the world's tallest arch and Missouri's tallest accessible building structure
7. The Pony Express
8. The Oregon Trail
9. (Meriwether) Lewis and (William) Clark
10. Harry S Truman
11. The Kansas City Royals (American League) and the St. Louis Cardinals (National League)
12. H & R Block. The Block brothers started their now billion-dollar company by taking out an ad in the *Kansas City Star* newspaper in 1955, charging \$5 for tax preparation services.
13. Joseph Pulitzer
14. Charles Lindbergh was the aviator, and his plane was *The Spirit of St. Louis*.
15. Brad Pitt
16. Dick Van Dyke
17. Missouri writers:
 - a. T. S. Eliot
 - b. Tennessee Williams
18. Jane Wyman
19. Bill Bradley