

9/28/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

South Dakota

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

With this quiz, each week (ish) we explore one US state. This week, we've randomly selected **SOUTH DAKOTA**. Let's see how much you know about this state where the largest and most complete T-Rex dinosaur fossil was discovered.

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 SOUTH DAKOTA from this quiz.

QUESTIONS

1. How (and when, if you know) did the United States acquire the territory of South Dakota?
2. What is the capital of South Dakota? (*Hint: It was named after a French-American fur trader, who had a very common French first name.*)
3. What are the only two cities in South Dakota with populations over 100,000?
4. Six states border South Dakota. Can you name three of them?
5. South Dakota is divided nearly in half by this river.
6. South Dakota gets its name from the Dakota Indians, who, along with the Lakota, the Nakota, and others, make up this great Native American nation.
7. The Black Hills, in the southwest part of South Dakota, are home to this major tourist attraction, the work of Gutzon Borglum from 1927 to 1941.
8. And speaking of Mount Rushmore: which four faces are carved into it?
9. And speaking of the Black Hills: what Beatles song includes the Black Hills in its lyrics?
10. Roughly 17 miles south of Mount Rushmore, another gigantic sculpture is currently being carved out of Thunderhead Mountain. What famous Native American warrior, who led a war party to victory at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, will be depicted riding a horse?
11. The Lakota people gave this region near the Black Hills its name because its rocky terrain, lack of water, and extreme temperatures made it difficult to traverse.
12. In 1970, American author Dee Brown wrote *Bury My Heart at _____*, the location in South Dakota of the last major armed conflict between the United States and the Lakota Sioux.
13. Identify these famous South Dakotans:

- a. This author moved to South Dakota in the late 19th century and opened a store with his wife. Luckily for young readers, it was not a success, so he moved to Chicago where he started writing *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.
- b. She wrote the *Little House on the Prairie* series of children's books.
- c. This vice president under Lyndon Johnson was born and brought up in South Dakota, but moved to Minnesota after attending the University of Minnesota.
- d. This Democratic senator from South Dakota (1963-1981) ran for president of the United States in 1972, losing all but one state (Massachusetts) to Richard Nixon.
- e. Born in Darrington, Washington, but raised mostly on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, he hosted *The Price is Right* for 35 years until he retired in 2007.
- f. This former *NBC Nightly News* anchor and host of *The Today Show* was born in Webster, South Dakota in 1940.

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ANSWERS

1. Most of South Dakota was acquired in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase from France; in other words, President Thomas Jefferson bought the property from Napoleon Bonaparte.
2. Pierre (pronounced “peer”) for Pierre Chouteau. With a population of less than 14,000, Pierre is the second-least populated state capital, after Montpelier, Vermont.
3. Sioux Falls (the largest city in South Dakota) and Rapid City
4. North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana
5. The Missouri River
6. The Sioux
7. Mount Rushmore
8. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln
9. Rocky Raccoon. “Now somewhere in the black mining hills of Dakota, there lived a young boy named Rocky Raccoon ...”
10. Crazy Horse. Begun in 1948 and still far from finished, the statue of Crazy Horse will be the largest sculpture in the world — over 600 feet wide and more than 560 feet high — when completed.
11. The Badlands. Today, visitors can hike, fossil hunt, take scenic drives, and spot birds and other wildlife in the 244,000 acres of Badlands National Park.
12. *Wounded Knee*
13. Famous South Dakotans:
 - a. L. Frank Baum
 - b. Laura Ingalls Wilder
 - c. Hubert Humphrey
 - d. George McGovern
 - e. Bob Barker. (It is interesting to note that the US Indian census rolls list Barker as an official member of the Sioux tribe.)
14. Tom Brokaw