

7/13/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

# Virginia

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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 **VIRGINIA**. Let's see how much you know about this state where Chapstick was invented in the 1880s and the first American test tube baby was born in 1981.

## 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 VIRGINIA from this quiz.

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## QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of Virginia?
2. Richmond is Virginia's fifth-largest city (by population; Richmond's is 229,000). Can you name the top four?
3. What is the name of the Appalachian mountain chain that runs through central Virginia?
4. What river forms part of the border between Virginia and Washington, DC?
5. Who is Virginia named after?
6. Virginia claims two American firsts: the first English settlement in North America (which survived for less than a year) and the first permanent English settlement on the continent (founded thirteen years before the Mayflower landed at Plymouth). Can you name either one of these settlements?
7. Much of the history of Virginia is wrapped up in this controversial crop. European demand for it grew quickly in the 17th century, fueling the arrival of more settlers (and servants and slaves) to the Virginia colony.
8. By the mid 1700s, Virginia was a thriving colony. Can you name its colonial capital city, much of which has been restored and is now a living history museum?
9. Virginia is sometimes called "The Mother of Presidents" because eight US presidents were born there. If you can name more than two, you're a Virginia pro!
10. After the Revolutionary War, Virginia and this neighboring state both ceded land to create Washington, DC, the capital of the new United States.
11. In 1861, when Virginia voted to secede from the Union and remain a slave state, 48 counties in the northeastern part of the state defected from Virginia, forming this new state that remained loyal to the Union.
12. What wild animals, made famous in *Misty of Chincoteague*, a 1947 book by Marguerite Henry, can be found on the islands off the eastern coast of Virginia

and Maryland?

How many of the following Virginians can you identify?

13. This American patriot, who declared "Give me liberty or give me death!" at the Second Virginia Convention in 1775, was born in Studley, Virginia in what was then British America.
14. This actress, born in Richmond in 1933, starred in *Terms of Endearment* in 1983. Her younger brother produced, directed, co-wrote, and starred in *Reds* in 1981.
15. This country singer, born in Winchester, Virginia in 1932, had many hit songs, including "Crazy" and "I Fall to Pieces." Her career was cut short when she died in a plane crash in 1963.
16. Although this singer is known as "Mr. Las Vegas," he was born in Norfolk, Virginia in 1942 and spent his early childhood in Roanoke.
17. This outspoken WWII general went to college at the Virginia Military Institute; and the actor who played him in a 1970 film was born in Wise, Virginia in 1927.
18. This tennis great, who is still the only Black man ever to win the singles title at Wimbledon, was born in Richmond in 1943.
19. This author, widely known for his association with "New Journalism" (a style of news writing that incorporates literary techniques), was born in Richmond in 1930. Some of his best selling books include *The Right Stuff*, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, and *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.

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## ANSWERS

1. Richmond
2. Virginia Beach (453,000)); Chesapeake (253,000); Arlington (235,000); Norfolk (230,000)
3. The Blue Ridge Mountains
4. The Potomac
5. Virginia is named after Queen Elizabeth I, who was known as “The Virgin Queen” because she never married.
6. Roanoke was the failed first attempt in 1585, and Jamestown was the successful second attempt in 1607.
7. Tobacco
8. Williamsburg
9. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson
10. Maryland. It’s interesting to note that a total of 100 square miles of land was ceded by Virginia and Maryland in 1791, but 46 years later, Virginia’s 31 miles were given back. The 69 square miles of land that make up the District of Columbia today were all taken from Maryland territory.
11. West Virginia
12. Wild ponies. While there are several legends about how the ponies came to be there, it’s most likely that they descend from stock released on Assateague Island by colonists who wanted to escape the British livestock taxes.

## Virginians:

13. Patrick Henry
14. Shirley MacLaine and Warren Beatty
15. Patsy Cline
16. Wayne Newton
17. General George S. Patton, who was portrayed by actor George C. Scott
18. Arthur Ashe
19. Tom Wolfe