

10/12/25 How Much Do You Know About ... ?

# West Virginia

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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 **WEST VIRGINIA**. Let's see how much you know about this state where the first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1908.

## 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 WEST VIRGINIA from this quiz.

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## QUESTIONS

1. What is the capital of West Virginia?
2. Charleston, with a population of 47,250, is the largest city in West Virginia. Only four other cities in the state have more than 25,000 people. Can you name one of them?
3. The geography of West Virginia is unusual in that the state is located entirely within this mountain range, which extends from Alabama into southeastern Canada.
4. After answering the previous question, perhaps you can guess what West Virginia's state nickname is ... if you don't already know it.
5. What river forms most of the northwest border of West Virginia?
6. Five states border West Virginia. How many can you name?
7. West Virginia is one of only two states formed during this war.
8. For close to thirty years during the late 1800s, this West Virginia family waged an infamous feud with a rival family that lived just across the Kentucky border.
9. Charleston's airport is named for this West Virginia native, who was the first pilot to break the sound barrier.
10. This major mineral product of West Virginia can be found beneath two-thirds of the state.
11. This former governor *and* former senator from West Virginia, with a very famous last name, was born to one of the wealthiest families in New York. He moved to West Virginia in the 1960s after serving a number of years in the Peace Corps.
12. Released in 1971, this song became one of John Denver's most popular hits, and remains, naturally, a favorite among West Virginians.
13. In 1896, West Virginia became the first state to use RFD mail service. What does RFD stand for?

14. Name these famous West Virginians:

- a. At the age of 16, this Fairmont, WV native captured America's heart during the 1984 Olympics, when she became the first female gymnast from the US to win the Olympic individual all-around gold medal.
- b. This actor from Morgantown, WV is best known for playing a bumbling, bug-eyed deputy sheriff from Mayberry, NC.
- c. Born June 26, 1892 in Hillsboro, WV, she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1932 for her novel *The Good Earth*, and six years later became the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- d. Born Ralph Pierre LaCock in 1926 in Huntington, WV, this television personality used a very different stage name as host of *The Hollywood Squares* from 1966 to 1981.

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## ANSWERS

1. Charleston
2. Huntington (46,000); Morgantown (31,000); Parkersburg (29,700); and Wheeling (26,800)
3. The Appalachian Mountains
4. The Mountain State
5. The Ohio River, which runs about 1,000 miles from Pittsburgh, PA to Cairo, IL, where it joins up with the Mississippi River
6. Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland
7. The American Civil War. Originally consisting of most of the northwestern counties of Virginia, West Virginia separated to become its own state in 1863, after Virginia had seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. West Virginia remained in the Union.
8. The Hatfields lived in West Virginia; the McCoys lived in Kentucky.
9. Chuck Yeager
10. Coal. West Virginia is second only to Wyoming in US coal production.
11. John Davison Rockefeller IV, known as Jay. Although the Rockefeller family was generally a Republican dynasty, Jay Rockefeller is a Democrat.
12. "Take Me Home, Country Roads" (or simply "Country Roads"). The song is the unofficial anthem of West Virginia University, and is played after every home football game — often with 60,000 fans singing along.
13. Rural Free Delivery, which allowed farms and other remote houses to receive mail at their home. Before RFD, rural residents had to pick up mail themselves at distant post offices or pay private companies for delivery.
14. Famous West Virginians:
  - a. Mary Lou Retton
  - b. Don Knotts
  - c. Pearl S. Buck
  - d. Peter Marshall