

10/19/25

This Week in History

Estimated play time: Varies

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

This weekly quiz looks at historical events for each day of this coming week – just a question or two per day. You can choose to make this a standard group game ... or you might think about posting the questions for each day – perhaps in the dining room or the elevator – to inspire participation even from those residents who don't join in on the group game activities.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first clue. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a player/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 player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the others 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.

10/19/25

This Week in History

OCTOBER 19

1. 1781. Britain's Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in this US state, handing victory to General Washington, effectively ending the Revolutionary War, and assuring America's independence.
2. 1959. This actress made her Broadway debut playing Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*. She went on to win an Academy Award at age 16 for the film version.

OCTOBER 20

3. 1818. The Convention of 1818 was signed between the United States and the United Kingdom. It set the now 5,525-mile border between these two countries on the 49th parallel for most of its length.
4. 1973. What name was given to this infamous night when President Richard Nixon abolished the office of the Watergate Special Prosecutor (Archibald Cox) and accepted the resignation of Attorney General Elliot Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William B. Ruckelshaus?

OCTOBER 21

5. 1797. The 44-gun Navy frigate *USS Constitution* was christened in Boston Harbor. Today, 228 years later, it is still a fully commissioned Navy ship (and museum) anchored in Boston Harbor. By what nickname is this ship better known?
6. 2018. This comic actress, who starred in *Saturday Night Live*, *Seinfeld*, and *Veep*, was awarded the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American humor, the highest award in comedy.

OCTOBER 22

7. 1746. The College of New Jersey, which later became this Ivy League college, was founded.
8. 2012. This cyclist was formally stripped of the seven Tour de France titles he won from 1999 to 2005 and banned for life from competitive cycling after being charged with systematically using illicit performance-enhancing drugs and blood transfusions.

OCTOBER 23

9. 1940. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history of soccer, this future superstar forward was born in Tres Coracoes, Brazil.
10. 1987. After an intensely partisan and contentious Senate hearing, this Reagan Supreme Court nominee was rejected by a Senate vote of 58 to 42.

OCTOBER 24

11. 1917. The United States announced its plan to buy three islands in the Danish West Indies: St. John, St. Croix, and St. Thomas, which are known collectively by this name today.
12. 1992. This Major League Baseball team finally won a World Series Championship for Canada.

OCTOBER 25

13. 1400. This "Father of English Literature," best remembered for writing *The Canterbury Tales*, died, and became the first poet to be buried in Westminster Abbey.
14. 1917. The October Revolution (also called Red October) began when this Bolshevik leader (and later the first premier of the Soviet Union) seized government buildings in Petrograd.

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This Week in History

ANSWERS

OCTOBER 19

1. Virginia
2. Patty Duke

OCTOBER 20

3. The United States and Canada
4. The "Saturday Night Massacre"

OCTOBER 21

5. Old Ironsides
6. Julia-Louis Dreyfus

OCTOBER 22

7. Princeton
8. Lance Armstrong

OCTOBER 23

9. Pele. Pele died in 2022 at the age of 82.
10. Robert Bork. Bork's name became a verb that means "to defame or vilify (a person) systematically, usually with the aim of preventing his or her appointment to public office."

OCTOBER 24

11. The US Virgin Islands
12. Toronto Blue Jays. In 1992 the Blue Jays bested the Atlanta Braves and the next year, in 1993, they won again beating the Philadelphia Phillies four games to two.

OCTOBER 25

13. Geoffrey Chaucer. Chaucer is credited by some scholars as the first author to demonstrate the artistic legitimacy of the Middle English language. Before that, most books were written in French or Latin.
14. Vladimir I. Lenin. Lenin was succeeded in 1922 by Joseph Stalin, who led the country until 1953.