

1/18/26

Last Week's News

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

This quiz explores some of the news and current events that occurred last week.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
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 player/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. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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QUESTIONS

1. Which state is investigating an arson that destroyed its largest and oldest Jewish synagogue?
2. The award season kicked off last week with this major award show.
3. Why did four Space-X astronauts return home from the International Space Station last week, a month earlier than expected?
4. Last Wednesday, tens of thousands of customers of this wireless carrier in multiple states were unable to make phone calls, send text messages, or use cellular data because of a systemic outage.
5. Cartoonist Scott Adams, who was best known for creating this comic strip, which ran from 1989 to 2023, died last week at age 78.
6. Six federal prosecutors resigned last week because of the US Justice Department's response to this high-profile event.
7. This country's violent crackdown on anti-government protesters continued last week.
8. What is the alleged reason that government prosecutors opened a criminal investigation into Jerome Powell, Chairman of the Federal Reserve?
9. Both Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio held talks last week with Foreign Minister Lars Rasmussen of this European country. Rasmussen left the meetings saying that his nation has a "fundamental disagreement" with the United States.
10. FBI agents searched the home of a reporter from this newspaper as part of an investigation into a government contractor accused of taking home government secrets.
11. What did María Corina Machado, the Venezuelan opposition leader, give to President Trump when she met with him last week?

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ANSWERS

1. Mississippi. A suspect confessed and has been arrested for this crime.
2. The Golden Globes
3. One astronaut had an undisclosed medical condition that required he return to earth.
4. Verizon
5. *Dilbert*. *Dilbert* was one of the most widely read comic strips in the US until 2023, when most newspapers dropped it after Adams' behavior and comments became increasingly racist.
6. The shooting of Renee Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis. The Justice Department has refused to investigate the officer who shot Ms. Good, but they have pushed to investigate Ms. Good's widow for any ties she might have with activist groups.
7. Iran. President Trump threatened "strong action" last week if Iran began executing protesters.
8. The government claims that the cost of the renovation of two historic Fed buildings is the reason. But, in a rare public video, Powell announced that that reason is a pretext and the true purpose is to make the Federal Reserve bend to President Trump's will to lower interest rates.
9. Denmark. Both Denmark and Greenland firmly reject US efforts to take over Greenland. "Greenland is not for sale," they say, and "we do not want to be Americans." In an unrelated health care event at the White House last week, Mr. Trump recounted how he has threatened European allies with tariffs on pharmaceuticals if they don't back the US acquisition of Greenland.
10. *The Washington Post*
11. Machado gave him the Peace Prize medal that she received last October. However, the Nobel Prize Committee has made it clear that once a Nobel Prize is announced, it "cannot be revoked, shared, or transferred to others ... The decision is final and stands for all time."