

1/4/26

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.

1/4/26

This Week in History

January 4

1. 1809. This inventor of a system that enabled the blind to read and write was born in Coupvray, France.
2. 2010. The Burj Khalifa, currently the tallest building in the world, officially opened in this most populous city in the United Arab Emirates.

January 5

3. 1943. This brilliant scientist, who was born in slavery, died at the age of 79. He found many dozens of new uses for crops, especially peanuts.
4. 1998. This pop singer turned politician died when he struck a tree while skiing near Lake Tahoe, California.

January 6

5. 1912. This much-beloved entertainer and founder of St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, was born to Lebanon-born parents in Michigan.
6. 2021. Why did roughly 2,500 supporters of US President Donald Trump attack the United States Capitol, resulting in five deaths, many injuries, and the evacuation of the US Congress?

January 7

7. 1927. This exhibition basketball franchise, famous for combining athleticism, theater, and comedy, played its first game – not in New York, but in Illinois.
8. 2023. The longest-lasting election process of a Speaker of the US House of Representatives in over 160 years concluded with this Republican California Representative becoming the 55th Speaker of the House.

January 8

9. 1790. George Washington delivered the first ever of this annual presidential speech required by the US Constitution.
10. 1941. Newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst forbid any of his newspapers to run advertisements for this Orson Welles movie, which was based on Hearst's life and painted an unflattering picture of him and his wife.

January 9

11. 1913. This future president of the US was born in Yorba Linda, California on his parents' lemon ranch.
12. 2007. Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs unveiled this "magical product," as he called it, that would revolutionize telecommunications.

January 10

13. 49 BC. Julius Caesar crossed this shallow river in northeastern Italy, marking the inevitable beginning of the Great Roman Civil War.
14. 1901. The first great oil gusher in this US state was discovered at the Spindletop oil field.

1/4/26

This Week in History

ANSWERS

January 4

1. Louis Braille, who was also blind
2. Dubai. The Burj Khalifa is just over a half-mile tall.

January 5

3. George Washington Carver
4. Sonny Bono, former husband and singing partner of Cher

January 6

5. Danny Thomas
6. The rioters wanted to stop the certification of the 2020 election, prevent Joe Biden from becoming president, and keep Donald Trump in office.

January 7

7. The Harlem Globetrotters
8. Kevin McCarthy. McCarthy's term would last less than nine months.

January 8

9. The State of the Union
10. *Citizen Kane*

January 9

11. Richard Nixon
12. The iPhone, which gave consumers the ability to use their phones for games, social networking, searching the internet, sending email and text messages, and an ever-growing list of other applications.

January 10

13. The Rubicon. The phrase "crossing the Rubicon" has survived to refer to any irrevocable commitment to a risky or revolutionary course of action, similar to the modern phrase "passing the point of no return."
14. Texas. Spindletop was the first major gusher of the great Texas oil boom, which made the United States the leading oil producer in the first half of the 20th century.