

1/18/26

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.

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This Week in History

JANUARY 18

1. 1788. The first of a fleet of eleven ships from England carrying 736 convicts and colonists arrived at Botany Bay in this country.
2. 1990. Marion Barry, the mayor of this US city, was arrested for drug possession in an FBI sting.

JANUARY 19

3. 1915. This new illumination technology was patented in the US. Within a couple of years, it would begin to revolutionize urban landscapes and redefine commercial districts such as Times Square in New York City.
4. 1966. She became the first woman elected Prime Minister of India.

JANUARY 20

5. 1981. On the same day that Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as president, 52 American hostages were released after being held for 444 days in this country.
6. 1993. This star of *Roman Holiday*, *Sabrina*, and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* died of colon cancer at age 63.

JANUARY 21

7. 1861. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi resigned from the US Senate shortly after Mississippi seceded from the Union. What was his next job?
8. 1957. This trailblazing country music singer was introduced to America on *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts* television program. She went on to have many #1 hits, including "Crazy" and "I Fall To Pieces."

JANUARY 22

9. 1973. Ten days after telling Walter Cronkite that he still smoked because it was better for his heart "to smoke than to be nervous," this former president suffered a massive heart attack and died at age 64.
10. 1973. The Supreme Court delivered its decision to legalize elective abortion in all fifty states. What was the name given to that case?

JANUARY 23

11. 1957. The toy company Wham-O debuted their aerodynamic plastic discs, known to the world by what popular name?
12. 1977. This groundbreaking television miniseries, based on a book by Alex Haley, premiered on ABC.

JANUARY 24

13. 1989. This notorious serial killer, with more than 30 known victims murdered throughout the 1970s, was executed by electric chair at the Florida State Prison.
14. 1984. This revolutionary personal computer, the first to be sold with a mouse, built-in screen, and graphical user interface, went on sale.

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This Week in History

ANSWERS

JANUARY 18

1. Australia
2. Washington, DC

JANUARY 19

3. Neon lighting
4. Indira Gandhi

JANUARY 20

5. Iran
6. Audrey Hepburn

JANUARY 21

7. Jefferson Davis was the first (and only) president of the Confederate States.
8. Patsy Cline, who died six years later in a plane crash.

JANUARY 22

9. Lyndon Johnson
10. *Roe v. Wade*. *Roe v. Wade* was overturned as a result of the 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, which shifted authority to individual states and resulted in a fragmented legal landscape of unequal access to reproductive healthcare.

JANUARY 23

11. Frisbees
12. *Roots*

JANUARY 24

13. Ted Bundy
14. The Macintosh computer by Apple