

4/26/26

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

APRIL 26

1. 1865. Twelve days after assassinating President Abraham Lincoln, he was killed at a Virginia farm by a federal soldier, though by some accounts, he committed suicide.
2. 1964. The African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged their territories and their names to form this new nation.

APRIL 27

3. 1791. This inventor of the telegraph was born. A portrait painter by profession, he was so distraught when the news reached him that his wife was ill, days after she had actually died, that he decided to work on a quicker means of long-distance communication.
4. 1981. The technology research organization Xerox PARC debuted this palm-sized computer pointing device.

APRIL 28

5. 1986. High levels of radiation were detected in Sweden – a discovery that forced the Soviet Union to publicly announce the nuclear meltdown that had occurred at this power plant.
6. 2004. CBS News released evidence of torture and abuse of detainees by US troops at this infamous Iraqi prison.

APRIL 29

7. 2011. Prince William, eldest son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana and heir to the British throne, married this “commoner.”
8. 2018. The animated series *The Simpsons* aired its 636th episode, surpassing the record of this classic TV western (1955-75) to become the longest-running scripted primetime show on US television.

APRIL 30

9. 1945. As Russian troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day. What was her name?
10. 1975. As the last US helicopters left the country, this South Vietnamese capital surrendered to the communist North Vietnam.

MAY 1

11. 1960. The USSR shot down an American U-2 spy plane and captured this US pilot.
12. 1931. This building on West 34th Street in New York City was dedicated by President Herbert Hoover. It was the world’s tallest building until 1970.

MAY 2

13. 1997. This British Labour Party leader became the youngest person to hold the office of Prime Minister since 1812.
14. 2011. This elite US military force captured and killed Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the September 11, 2001 US attacks, in Pakistan.

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ANSWERS

APRIL 26

1. John Wilkes Booth
2. Tanzania

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3. Samuel Morse
4. The mouse

APRIL 28

5. Chernobyl
6. Abu Ghraib

APRIL 29

7. Catherine “Kate” Middleton
8. *Gunsmoke*. *The Simpsons* is still on the air and has reached more than 800 episodes.

APRIL 30

9. Eva Braun
10. Saigon

MAY 1

11. Francis Gary Powers
12. The Empire State Building. Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, the Empire State Building was once again New York City's tallest building, until it was surpassed in 2012 by One World Trade Center.

MAY 2

13. Tony Blair (43). Blair’s “achievement” was beaten in 2010 by David Cameron (43); and Cameron was beaten by Rishi Sunak (42) in 2022.
14. The Navy SEALs