

8/23/26

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

AUGUST 23

1. 1912. This actor, singer, and especially dancer was born in Pittsburgh, PA. He went on to revolutionize the movie musical genre with films such as *Singin' in the Rain* and *An American in Paris*.
2. 1979. Soviet ballet star Alexander Godunov defected while this famous Russian ballet troupe was on tour in New York.

AUGUST 24

3. 79AD. This volcano exploded in eruption, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash.
4. 1981. Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York for the murder of this rock music icon outside the Dakota apartment building.

AUGUST 25

5. 1875. Twenty-seven-year-old Matthew Webb became the first person known to swim across this waterway from England to France.
6. 2009. This Democratic "Lion of the Senate," who was first elected in 1962, died of brain cancer at age 77.

AUGUST 26

7. 1498. Michelangelo Buonarroti was commissioned by the Vatican to carve *The Pietà*. What is the subject of this statue?
8. 1939. The first major league baseball game was televised. It was between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers and was played at this famed Dodgers park.

AUGUST 27

9. 1955. This famous reference book was first published in London, occasioned by a barroom argument over what was the fastest bird.
10. 1964. This musical film, an adaptation of a classic P.L. Travers' book and starring Julie Andrews, premiered in Los Angeles and quickly became an iconic Disney movie.

AUGUST 28

11. 1955. Accused of offending a white woman, fourteen-year-old Emmett Till was lynched and brutally murdered in this state.
12. 1968. During the Democratic National Convention in this city, tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters battled police in the street.

AUGUST 29

13. 1957. This South Carolina senator finally ended the longest filibuster in senate history after talking for 24 hours and 18 minutes against a civil rights bill.
14. 1968. Anti-Vietnam War candidate Eugene McCarthy lost the Democratic presidential nomination to this war-supporting Minnesotan.

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This Week in History

ANSWERS

AUGUST 23

1. Gene Kelly
2. The Bolshoi Ballet

AUGUST 24

3. Mt. Vesuvius. An estimated 20,000 people died in the eruption.
4. John Lennon

AUGUST 25

5. The English Channel
6. Senator Edward “Ted” Kennedy, who died at his home in Hyannis, MA.

AUGUST 26

7. *The Pietá* depicts the dead body of Jesus in the arms of Mary after he was removed from the cross.
8. Ebbets Field. Viewership for this televised game was sparse, since there were fewer than 400 television sets in New York City.

AUGUST 27

9. *The Guinness Book of Records*
10. *Mary Poppins*

AUGUST 28

11. Mississippi
12. Chicago

AUGUST 29

13. Senator Strom Thurmond
14. Hubert Humphrey