ARBORSCAPES

America 250 Tree Trivia Quiz!

1. **What is the official National Tree of the United States?**

   A. White Oak
   B. American Chestnut
   C. Sugar Maple
   D. Eastern White Pine

   Answer: A. White Oak

   Fun Fact: Illinois, Connecticut, and Maryland also have the White Oak as their official state tree.

2. **Approximately what percentage of the United States is covered by forests?**

   A. 15%
   B. 33%
   C. 50%
   D. 65%

   Answer: B. About 33%

   Fun Fact: Approximately 1/3rd of all forested land in the United States is classified as "broadleaf" (hardwood) forest.

3. **Which U.S. president protected more forest land than any other president?**

   A. Abraham Lincoln
   B. Franklin D. Roosevelt

C. Theodore Roosevelt
D. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Answer: C. Theodore Roosevelt

Fun Fact: Roosevelt protected approximately 230 million acres of public land and set aside 150 million acres as national forests. Before Congress limited his authority in 1907, Roosevelt famously signed proclamations creating 21 new forest reserves in a single day, adding roughly 16 million acres to the nation's protected forests just before the new restrictions took effect.

4. **Which U.S. state is home to the world's oldest known living tree?**
   A. Alaska
   B. California
   C. Oregon
   D. Nevada

Answer: B. California

Fun Fact: The oldest known individual tree is a Great Basin Bristlecone Pine nicknamed Methuselah, growing in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. It is estimated to be more than 4,800 years old, meaning it was already an ancient tree when the pyramids of Egypt were being built.

5. **Which tree was once called the "Redwood of the East" because it was so common and valuable?**
   A. Ash
   B. American Elm
   C. American Chestnut
   D. Tulip Poplar

Answer: C. American Chestnut

Fun Fact: Before chestnut blight, American Chestnuts provided food for wildlife, rot-resistant lumber for buildings and fences, and nuts that people and livestock harvested every fall. Their loss is considered one of the greatest ecological disasters in North American forest history.

6. **The Liberty Tree, where protesters gathered beneath its branches to organize demonstrations against British taxes, including opposition to the Stamp Act, is in what state?**
   A. Virginia
   B. Massachusetts
   C. Pennsylvania
   D. New York

Answer: B. Massachusetts

Fun Fact: The Liberty Tree stood in Boston and became one of the most important rallying symbols of colonial resistance leading up to the American Revolution, including events connected to the Boston Tea Party. In 1775, British Loyalists cut down the tree in an attempt to crush the growing rebellion.

7. **Which state is home to more National Champion Trees than any other?**
   A. Virginia
   B. Oregon
   C. California
   D. North Carolina

Answer: A. Virginia!

Fun Fact: Virginia is home to **about 90 National Champion Trees**, the most of any state in the U.S. These trees are recognized as the largest known living specimens of their species based on a combination of trunk circumference, height, and average crown spread.

8. **Approximately how old is the average forest in the eastern United States?**
   A. 50 years
   B. 75 years
   C. 150 years
   D. 250 years

Answer: C. About 75 years old.

Fun Fact: Most eastern U.S. forests regrew after farmland was abandoned in the late 1800s and early 1900s, so they're much younger than many people realize.

9. **Which state celebrated the first Arbor Day in 1872?**
   A. Kansas
   B. Missouri
   C. Iowa
   D. Nebraska

Answer: D. Nebraska

Fun Fact: The very first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10, 1872, and an estimated 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska that day! The holiday was created by J. Sterling Morton to encourage settlers to plant trees for shade, windbreaks, fuel, and building materials on the largely treeless Great Plains.

10. **Why are healthy trees important for America's next 250 years?**
    A. They clean the air.
    B. They provide wildlife habitat.
    C. They help reduce stormwater runoff and cool communities.
    D. All of the above.

Answer: D. All of the above!!!!!

Fun Fact: Trees are one of the few gifts we plant today that future generations will enjoy more than we do.

As we celebrate America's first 250 years, let's remember that the trees we plant and protect today will become part of the nation's next 250 years of history!