Challenge Yourself – Test Your Knowledge

For over 170 issues, 17 years of publishing and 2 books, Zoom in on America has been your companion in learning English and acquiring information about the United States. Some of our readers have been with us since the beginning in February 2004, and many have jumped on board as the time went by. In this issue we would like to ask you to challenge yourself and answer some questions based on the materials in our previous issues. If you don’t have the answer immediately, don’t worry. Check the issue linked to the question, where you can find the answer. So, get comfortable, relax and have fun testing your knowledge!

**QUESTION 1**

1. This is a recipe writing task. On the right you have a list of ingredients needed to bake a cake, which is one of the most popular cakes on the Thanksgiving table.

   What is the name of this cake?

   When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?

   Now, take a piece of paper or use a notebook and write the recipe :) Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3sa42ai

   Ingredients for ...

   - 2 oz. butter
   - 1 cup light-brown sugar
   - 1 cup white corn syrup
   - 3 eggs
   - pinch of salt
   - 1 tablespoon flour
   - 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
   - 2 tsp vanilla
   - 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell
   - 2 cups pecans

**QUESTION 2**

2. We have a few questions related to this issue of Zoom. Please answer the questions on the right.

   You might want to listen again to the listening exercise we had “At a Horse Auction.”

   You can find the link to the listening exercise and check your answers here: https://bit.ly/3a3Mo1L

   What are Assateague and Chincoteague?

   What is the biggest tourist attraction on the islands?

   What does a fence running right across the islands mark?

   Why do some ponies bought at the auction stay on the island with the rest of the herd?

**QUESTION 3**

3. These are a few famous idiosyncrasies that made this series so beloved and so memorable: the beat-up raincoat of the main character, an old vehicle that refuses to start, the wife who never shows, but about whom he talks constantly, his searching for matches to light a cigar, his attempts to locate where he put his notebook, his dachshund dog...

   Now, you are sure to answer the questions on the right:

   Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3dZYuX
4. This award is the dream of (nearly) all people who made the film industry their career. This issue of Zoom asked and answered some of the most popular questions about the prestigious Academy Awards.

See if you can answer the questions on the right.

Check your answer in this issue: https://bit.ly/3x8ZQey

5. April is Jazz Appreciation month. Look at the quotes in the right column and match the quotes with their authors:

a. Miles Davis
b. John Philip Sousa
c. Chick Corea
d. Louis Armstrong

Check your answer in this issue: https://bit.ly/3s6JcbN

6. What is the building in the picture on the right?

Where is it?

What architectural style does it represent?

Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3seGcKm

7. In the segment from Zoom about Route 66 (on the right), fill in the names of states through which the famous road runs.

...Beginning in Chicago, one could drive 2,400 miles (3,862km) and pass through eight states...

The highway started in Chicago, .........., headed down south to Springfield in the same state and St. Louis in the bordering state of .......... . Route 66 then ran all the way west, through .........., then via Tulsa and Oklahoma City in .........., Amarillo in .........., Santa Fe and Albuquerque in .........., Flagstaff in .........., and finally to Los Angeles in .......... .

Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3wMAI2o
11. Americans love winter and snow though of course some states never or rarely have it. There are many winter carnivals across the country with ski races, ski jumping competitions, and slalom mountain biking as well as contests for building ice palaces. Look at the question on the right and see if you remember some of the ones mentioned in this issue.

Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3gaTcy6

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8. In this issue of Zoom you read about car racing in the United States, monster truck shows and drag racing. Look at the description of the electronic starting system. How is it called? Can you remember the whole starting procedure?

Check your answer in this issue: https://bit.ly/3a3YqIt

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9. In this issue of Zoom we featured some of the four-legged inhabitants of the White House as nearly all American Presidents had pets. On the right you have names of some of these first pets. Do you remember which president has/had them?

Check your answer in this issue: https://bit.ly/3dnBUN4

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10. Pony Express was an incredibly efficient mail delivery system at its time (1860-1861). This iconic service was "killed" by the construction of the telegraph. Can you answer the questions on the right?

Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3dPXl84

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11. Which of the places listed below organize winter carnivals or festivals:

a. St. Paul, Minnesota
b. Saranac Lake, New York
c. Washington, D.C.
d. Steamboats Springs, Colorado
e. Anchorage, Alaska

Check your answer here: https://bit.ly/3gaTcy6

There was an overview of American military ranks as well as an article about West Point Academy. See if you can answer the questions on the right.

Check your answer in this issue:
https://bit.ly/3mEBjZW

13. Each American state has its own symbols including flags, emblems and seals. In addition, the states have their mottos, nicknames, birds, animals and flowers. It this issue we took a look at some bird species selected by particular states as their state symbols.

Check your answer in this issue:
https://bit.ly/3dWc0yz

14. Who and on what occasion wrote the words on the right in his diary?

Check your answer here:

15. To the list of American Nobel Prize winners in Literature, which was presented in the January-February 2020 issue of Zoom, we added Louise Glück, who was awarded got the prize later in 2020.

Link to the issue:
https://bit.ly/3tzS0IJ

Here is a list of Americans who were awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Have you read any of their books/poetry?

19. The penname Mark Twain came from a term used in navigation. A “mark” was an impression on a line which was used to measure the depth of the river. “Twain” denoted a number: 2 fathoms, or 12 feet. “Mark twain” referred to the depth at which it was safe for steamboats to travel on the river. At shallower depths, the steamboats risked getting stuck on the river bottom. Now answer the questions on the right.

Link to the issue:
Zoom’s Guidebook

Throughout the years Zoom in on America has transported our readers to many places in the United States. If you were to compile all these places, you would have quite a thick guidebook of scenic spots and special attractions in America. Here are some of the places we covered:

- GRAND CANYON
- HIGHWAY ONE
- CANYON DE CHELLY
- BRYCE NP
- GOLDEN GATE BR.
- CHARLESTON
- DEATH VALLEY
- COASTAL STATES
- ARCHES NP
- HAWAII
- LAS VEGAS
- BEACHES
- NATIONAL MALL
- ALASKA
- ZION NP
- ANTELOPE CANYON
- COLORADO RIVER
- BUILDINGS
- YOSEMITE
- SAN FRANCISCO

January-February Quiz Answer: Spot

The winners are: Pawel from Rymanow, Barbara from Wiatowice and Julia from Blachownia

CONGRATULATIONS!
The prizes will be sent to you by mail.

Zoom is online at www.usinfo.pl/zoom/

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The cover of the 2019 The Best of Zoom in on America book