

Round Up

Pennsylvania Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge about our state's people, places and history with this 'round-about' puzzle

by Sandra Miller-Louden

AS PENNSYLVANIANS, WE HAVE A PROUD tradition of well-known people and places. How familiar are you with our state's heritage? To test what you know, we've written a quiz filled with interesting facts. While there are no prizes to claim, we think you'll have fun answering the questions.

Follow the number path (starting at number 1) as you try your hand at solving our quiz.

1. Every Pennsylvanian knows — or should know — that actor Jimmy Stewart is from our Keystone State. In what 1939 film does Stewart portray a wholesome, innocent man whose homespun knowledge makes him a target for corrupt enemies?

- a. Mr. Deeds Goes to Town. *Rush ahead to 19 to see how you fared.*
- b. Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House. *Try 24 to get the scoop.*
- c. Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. *Let's meander to 6 to see if you got it right.*
- d. Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation. *Go to 13 and see what happens.*

2. This native of North East, Pa., was both a comedian and cornet player who was given the name Merwyn Bogue at birth. He performed with Big Band leader Kay Kyser and appeared in 10 movies between 1939 and 1950. His stage name was:

- a. Ish Kabibble. *Swing your way over to 18.*
- b. IceFrog. *Transport yourself to 21.*

3. Strike up the music, although your answer struck up a goose egg! Although catchy and sung by the swingin' Andrews Sisters, the "Pennsylvania Polka" cannot be classified as "swing jazz." Sooo, your only option is to swing back to question 14 and try again.

4. Sorry, but the *Pinus taeda* is a type of pine tree found in the southeastern United States. It is also called "loblolly" — a combination of "lob," which is a thick

bubbling of cooking porridge, and "lolly," a British word for soup boiled in a pot. What bubbling porridge and soup have to do with a tree, we don't know. That aside, let's try question 7 again, shall we?

5. That's the ticket. Joe Biden is a native Keystoner of Irish descent, born November 20, 1942, in Scranton. Politics are in his blood as his great-grandfather was a member of the state Senate in Pennsylvania. The family moved to Delaware in 1953, and Biden became a member of the U.S. Senate in 1972. He was reelected six times before becoming the first Roman Catholic vice president. Way to go . . . and now you're elected to try question 10.

6. Hurray! *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* starred Stewart as the innocent Jefferson Smith, a likable "regular Joe." He is handpicked to replace a senator who has died, but unbeknownst to Mr. Smith, he is to be nothing more than a stooge for entrenched corruption. This film was added to the National Film Registry in 1989 for being "culturally, historically and aesthetically significant." It's also a significant accomplishment to get the first question right...so on you go to question 2!

7. Pennsylvania's state tree is the eastern hemlock. What is its official scientific name?

- a. *Pinaceae Pinus taeda*. *Let's try 4 and see if you're right.*
- b. *Tsuga canadensis*. *Use the nearest limb to climb over to 12.*

8. Dearie, dearie me! Author Beverly Cleary is an Oregon native, born in 1916. She has won many awards, including a Newbery Medal for the book *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. While definitely talented and truly beloved, she doesn't quite fit the bill as a native Pennsylvanian. Back to the drawing board (or question 10) to get the correct answer.

9. Oops! You didn't make the runoff this time. Chris Christie was born in Newark, N.J., in 1962 and graduated from the University of Delaware in 1984. He earned his J.D. from Seton Hall, also located in Newark. Let's trod on back to question 23 and try for a more judicious answer.

10. What Harrisburg native began her career as an eighth-grade English teacher before turning to writing children's and young adult literature full time in 1997? She has won a number of awards, including a Newbery Honor Medal in 2006.

- a. Beverly Cleary. *Flip through the pages until you arrive at 8.*
- b. Susan Campbell Bartoletti. *Scan the numbers until you reach 16.*

11. Well, that's just not right. Anheuser-Busch was founded in 1852 in St. Louis, Mo., and is headquartered in Belgium. Guess you must be a wine connoisseur. Back to question 17 ya go!

12. Impressive! While many Pennsylvanians would know that the eastern hemlock is the state tree, not as many are familiar with its scientific classification of *Tsuga canadensis*. The oldest recorded specimen, estimated to be at least 554 years old, is located in Tionesta, Forest County. Well done — and let's climb over to question 23.

13. Okay, we'll give you that James Stewart, as Mr. Hobbs, starred in this 1962 film along with the delightful Maureen O'Hara. His character, Roger Hobbs, is a hapless, overworked banker who finds vacation life not exactly what he anticipated. However, there is a 23-year gap between this film and the correct answer. Let's return to question 1 and try again.

14. Our state has been the topic of several notable songs throughout the decades. This particular tune is classified as a swing jazz and pop standard from 1940. The right answer has to be...

- a. Pennsylvania 6-5000. *Be a hep cat and swing on over to 20.*
- b. Allentown. *Can't keep a good guesser down, so see what 22 has in store.*
- c. Pennsylvania Polka. *Veliko sreće (good luck) as you dance your way to 3.*

15. Tsk, tsk! We really need to brush up on native Keystoneers. Although Kelly Ayotte is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Villanova University School of Law, she was born in Nashua, N.H., and serves as a senator from that state. We may need a runoff as we go back to question 23.

16. Absolutely correct! Susan Campbell Bartoletti is recognized for her compelling nonfiction in such books as *Kids on Strike!*, *Hitler Youth: Growing up in Hitler's Shadow* (a 2006 Newbery Honor Book) and *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845 to 1850*. She was born in Harrisburg and graduated from the University of Scranton in 1982. Now try your hand at question 14.

17. When we hear the phrase “toss back a cold one,” we know it’s not about snowballs! Breweries are part of America’s history, and Pennsylvania is home to the nation’s oldest brewery. What is the name of that brewery?

- a. Anheuser-Busch. *Head over to 11 to get the lowdown.*
- b. Yuengling. *Walk a straight line to 25.*

18. Now we’re cookin’ on the front burner! Ish Kabibble performed with Kay Kyser in Kyser’s *Kollege of Musical Knowledge*. Before that, he studied law at West Virginia University, but his comedy style soon found a sizable, nationwide audience. Moe Howard of the *Three Stooges* was inspired by Kabibble’s bowl-cut hairdo, as was Jim Carrey’s character

in *Dumb and Dumber*. Ish Kabibble died in 1994 of respiratory failure. Be a jive cat as you boogie triumphantly to number 7.

19. You’re off to a not-so-flying-start. While Longfellow Deeds is a wholesome, innocent man, he is portrayed in this 1936 film by Montana native Gary Cooper. Mr. Deeds is a tuba-playing, greeting-card poet from Vermont who inherits \$20 million along with powerful “friends” who wish to handle his money. Although the two film characters are



Do you know this movie that starred Pennsylvania’s own Jimmy Stewart? It’s the first question in our pop quiz.

similar, unfortunately you still must go back to the beginning (question 1) and try a bit harder.

20. You are one smart cookie! “Pennsylvania 6-5000” was recorded by the great Glenn Miller and his orchestra in 1940 and first released as a 78-rpm single by RCA Victor. Miller was inspired by hearing the Hotel Pennsylvania’s phone number (yep—PENNSYLVANIA 6-5000) when his orchestra played in the hotel’s Café Rouge (no relation to today’s French-styled restaurant chain). The song can be heard in such films as *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, *Any Given Sunday* and *The Majestic*. Okay, jive cat, it’s on to the final stretch as you try question 17.

21. Cool name, wrong choice. IceFrog designs video games for Valve Corporation and is the lead designer

for Dota 2. IceFrog continues to maintain his anonymity and has never publicly revealed his real name. On that cryptic note, let’s return to question 2 and pick the only other choice remaining.

22. Oops! You’re wrong. The song “Allentown,” written and performed by Billy Joel, was initially met with mixed reaction from the city’s residents. While first criticized as filled with blue-collar archetypes, the song soon overcame initial skepticism to become a hit record, and Joel himself was awarded the key to the city of Allentown by the mayor who proclaimed it “a gritty song about a gritty city!” It has since become the unofficial anthem of labor and blue-collar workers. March back to question 14 and try again.

23. This politician is most commonly associated with a state bordering the Atlantic Ocean but, in reality, is a Pennsylvania native. And the winner is...

- a. Chris Christie. *Rally your way over to 9 and see if you won.*
- b. Kelly Ayotte. *Let’s try for a victory with 15.*
- c. Joe Biden. *Join the campaign as we race toward 5.*

24. *Seriously?!* Mr. Blandings was portrayed by Cary Grant in this endearing 1948 film in which he and screen-legend wife, Myrna Loy, come up against constant odds when they attempt to build their “dream house” in Connecticut. Go back to question 1 and try again.

25. Clink those glasses together for the final big win! In 1829, David Yuengling established the Eagle Brewery on Centre Street in Pottsville. As its website states, “The story of Yuengling is the story of the American spirit.” The site goes on to say that by 2015, “Yuengling tops the Brewers Association’s annual list of craft beers.” On that positive note, congratulations on not only completing our quiz, but also learning more about our wonderful state. 🍻

—Sandra Miller-Louden makes her home in Somerset County.