

HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ: September 2018 Newsletter



History Behind the Names of U.S. State Capitals

ANSWERS

Identify 4 State Capitals that are named after U.S. presidents?

- **Jefferson City MO**; named for 3rd president, Thomas Jefferson.
 - **Madison WI**; named for 4th president, James Madison.
 - **Jackson MS**; named for 8th president, Andrew Jackson.
 - **Lincoln NE**; named for 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

Identify 5 State Capitals that are named after explorers?

- **Pierre SD**; named after Fort Pierre, which was named for Pierre Choteau, Jr.; a French fur trader from St. Louis.
- **Columbus OH**; named for Christopher Columbus.
- **Columbia SC**; named for Christopher Columbus.
- **Carson City NV**; named for U.S. Army scout & explorer, Kit Carson.
- **Raleigh NC**; named for Sir Walter Raleigh; who never visited North America himself, but obtained a charter & twice founded colonies in Roanoke VA.

Identify 6 State Capitals with French names?

- **Pierre SD**; named in honor of 19th century settler and fur trader Pierre Chouteau in 1880.
- **Montpelier VT**; named in 1781 after the French city of Montpelier.
- **Baton Rouge LA**; was named by French explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville in 1699, meaning "red stick" in French.
- **Boise ID**; named for the Boise River which was named by 19th century French Canadian fur trappers.
- **Des Moines IA**; named for the Des Moines River which was named by Trappist monks (*moines* in French = monks).
- **Juneau AK**; named for French Canadian gold prospector, Joseph Juneau in 1881.

Identify 8 State Capitals with Names Having Origins in England?

- **Hartford CT**; named for the birthplace of founders Rev. Samuel Stone & Thomas Hooker, Hertford, England.
- **Boston MA**; named in 1630 after Boston, Lincolnshire, England; hometown of Massachusetts Bay Colony's Governor John Winthrop.
- **Albany NY**; gifted by King Charles II to his brother James, Duke of York & Albany.
- **Raleigh NC**; named in commemoration of Sir Walter Raleigh's lost colony of Roanoke in VA.
- **Annapolis MD**; named in 1694 to honor Princess Anne, heir to the English throne, and later Queen of England.
- **Dover, DE**; named for a port in England's county of Kent.

- **Trenton NJ**; named by founder, William Trent who emigrated from England (originally “Trent-Towne”).
- **Richmond VA**; named by William Byrd II who was reminded of Richmond-on-Thames in Surrey County, England.

**Identify 4 State Capitals
with Native American Names?**

- **Cheyenne WY**; named in tribute to the local indigenous Cheyenne people.
- **Topeka KS**; Shawnee name for “*wild potatoes.*”
- **Tallahassee FL**; an Apalachee word meaning “*old fields.*”
- **Oklahoma City OK**; combines the Choctaw words *ukla* (*person*) and *huma* (*red*).

**Identify 6 State Capitals
with Names Having Religious Implications.**

- **St. Paul MN**; named for Paul the Apostle who wrote 14 books of The Bible and preached Christianity throughout Asia Minor, Greece & Rome.
- **Santa Fe NM**; Santa Fe was originally called “La Villa Real de la *Santa Fe* de San Francisco de Asis,” which means “The Royal City of the *Holy Faith* of Saint Francis of Assisi.”
- **Sacramento CA**; named after the Sacramento River, which was named for the Holy Sacrament, or Eucharist by Spanish explorer Gabriel Moraga in 1808.

- **Providence RI**; named in 1636 by religious liberty activist Roger Williams. The name means “divine care.”
- **Salem OR**; named in 1850 after the biblical city of “Jerusalem” or possibly after Salem, Massachusetts with the same root.
- **Helena MT**; named by miners from St. Helena MN, which in turn was named for Saint Helena, mother of Constantine I, the first Roman emperor to become a Christian. She converted as well.

**Identify 4 State Capitals
named for U.S. military heroes?**

- **Nashville TN**; named for Revolutionary War General Francis Nash in 1784.
- **Montgomery AL**; named for Richard Montgomery, Revolutionary War General killed in the attack on Quebec.
- **Jackson MS**; named for General Andrew Jackson, aka “Old Hickory” who beat the British in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812.
- **Carson City NV**; named for Kit Carson who was a U.S. Army scout under General John C. Fremont during expeditions into the American West.

BONUS QUESTION:

**How many State Capitals can you identify
that were named after women?**

- **Augusta ME**; There is some debate; but possibly named after Pamela Augusta Dearborn, the daughter of Revolutionary War officer Henry Dearborn.

- **Helena MT;** named in the 1860's by miners who were from St. Helena MN. Saint Helena was the mother of Roman emperor Constantine I, circa year 300. Both converted to Christianity; and thus influenced many to do likewise.
- **Annapolis MD;** named in 1694 for Princess Anne who later became Queen of England.