

Illinois History, Geography and Government Quiz

- 1 Who were the two Frenchmen who explored Illinois in 1673?
- 2 During the American Revolution, what Virginian marched across Illinois in winter to defeat the British at Vincennes?
- 3 What year did Illinois become a state?
- 4 What are the three towns that have served as Illinois capitals?
- 5 For what is Jean Baptiste Point du Sable famous?
- 6 What three rivers form the southeastern, southern and western borders of Illinois?
- 7 What massive public works project was started near Chicago on July 4, 1836?
- 8 What religious group founded the Western Illinois town of Nauvoo in 1839?
- 9 Which U.S. president was born in Illinois?
- 10 Which U.S. president is buried in Illinois?
- 11 What was the nickname given to Illinois Sen. Stephen A. Douglas?
- 12 Illinois furnished the Union more than 170 generals during the Civil War. Of the nine generals from Galena, which one later became a U.S. president?
- 13 What five states border Illinois?
- 14 John Deere and Cyrus McCormick were responsible for improvements in what field?
- 15 What is the official name of the Illinois legislative branch?
- 16 How many state Constitutions has Illinois had, and when was the current one adopted?
- 17 What events do the four stars on the flag of Chicago represent?
- 18 The official state slogan was adopted in 1955. What is it?
- 19 Who referred to Chicago as the "Hog Butcher for the World?"
- 20 In what Illinois towns are the main campuses of the following state universities found: Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western?

Alexi Giannoulis • Secretary of State and State Archivist
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History, Geography and Government Quiz Answers

- 1 **Louis Jolliet**, age 27, and **Father Jacques Marquette**, a Jesuit priest, age 35, traveled down the Mississippi and then up the Illinois and Des Plaines rivers to Lake Michigan in the summer of 1673.
- 2 In February 1779, **George Rogers Clark** and about 170 men slogged through mud and flooded rivers for 140 miles from Kaskaskia to Vincennes to capture Fort Sackville from the British.
- 3 On Dec. 3, **1818** (Statehood Day), President James Monroe signed the joint House and Senate Resolution admitting Illinois as the 21st state in the Union. However, Aug. 26, 1818 — the date on the official State Seal — commemorates the date that Illinois' first Constitution was approved by convention in Kaskaskia.
- 4 **Kaskaskia** (1818-1820), **Vandalia** (1820-1839) and **Springfield** (1839 to the present).
- 5 Jean Baptiste Point du Sable established the **first permanent settlement at the Chicago portage** in about 1779. Probably a Black descendant of French Caribbean slaves, du Sable and his Potawatomi wife established a trading center for 20 years at the present site of Pioneer Court on North Michigan Ave.
- 6 The **Wabash, Ohio** and **Mississippi** rivers.
- 7 Work on the **Illinois and Michigan Canal** started in the community of Bridgeport. The canal was completed in 1848 and heavily used until the 1880s. Officially closed in 1933, it has now become the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.
- 8 By 1845, the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)** had made Nauvoo the largest city in Illinois. However, after its founder Joseph Smith was killed, most members migrated to Utah with Brigham Young.
- 9 The 40th president of the United States, **Ronald Wilson Reagan** was born Feb. 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois. In 1932, he graduated from Eureka College.
- 10 In 1865, the remains of **Abraham Lincoln** were placed in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield. The 16th president, Lincoln was born in Kentucky on Feb. 12, 1809. He spent much of his youth in Indiana and came to Illinois with his family when he was 21.
- 11 Stephen Arnold Douglas (1813-1861) came to Illinois in 1833 and became a leading Democratic politician and Abraham Lincoln's main rival. His height (5'4"), great intelligence and powerful speaking ability combined to earn him the nickname "**Little Giant.**"
- 12 **Ulysses Simpson Grant** (originally Hiram Ulysses) was born in Ohio in 1822. A West Pointer, he first led Illinois troops into battle and eventually commanded all the Union Armies during the Civil War. He served two terms as 18th U.S. president, beginning March 4, 1869.
- 13 **Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin**
- 14 **Farm implements.** Deere invented the steel plow, which helped break the rich prairie soil, while McCormick aggressively mass produced and marketed the reaper, which made the harvesting of large crops possible.
- 15 The **General Assembly**, which consists of the 59-member Senate and the 18-member House of Representatives. They are responsible for making laws in Illinois.
- 16 **Four** — 1818, 1848, 1870 and 1970.
- 17 The official blue and white striped flag only contained two six-pointed red stars when it was adopted April 4, 1917. These stars represented the **Chicago Fire** and the **World's Columbian Exposition**. Added later were stars for the **Century of Progress Exposition** (1933) and **Fort Dearborn** (1948).
- 18 **Land of Lincoln**
- 19 **Carl Sandburg** (1878-1967), Pulitzer Prize-winning poet from Galesburg.
- 20 **Charleston, DeKalb, Carbondale and Macomb.** Illinois' 12 public universities enrolled more than 182,586 students in the 2019-2020 school year.