

Oceania & Pacific Independence Day Revelations: From Samoa's New Beginning

Independence Days · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Samoa's 64th Independence Day celebrations in 2026 are themed around "Samoa united for a new beginning." What was the specific purpose highlighted for this year's theme?

- A) To commemorate the nation's modern technological advancements.
- B) To remember the hard work and struggles of Samoa's forebears in securing independence.**
- C) To focus on strengthening economic ties with neighboring island nations.
- D) To celebrate the success of recent cultural exchange programs.

2. The revival of which traditional sporting event is a key highlight planned for Samoa's 64th Independence Day celebrations in June 2026?

- A) Kilikiti (Samoan Cricket)
- B) Fautasi (long-boat) races**
- C) Samoan traditional wrestling
- D) Kava drinking competitions

3. Fiji Day, celebrated annually on October 10, culminates Fiji Week. What historical event does this week-long period commemorate?

- A) The signing of the first trade agreement with Australia.
- B) The establishment of the Fijian Parliament.
- C) The anniversary of Fiji's independence from British rule.**
- D) The discovery of the islands by European explorers.

4. Vanuatu's Independence Day, celebrated on July 30th, marks its liberation from the joint rule of which two European powers?

- A) Spain and Portugal
- B) France and the United Kingdom**
- C) Germany and the Netherlands
- D) Britain and Australia

5. The Solomon Islands Independence Day is celebrated on July 7th, commemorating the nation's independence from British rule in which year?

- A) 1968
- B) 1978**
- C) 1988
- D) 1998

6. Kiribati Independence Day is celebrated on July 12th, marking its independence from which former colonial power in 1979?

- A) Australia
- B) New Zealand
- C) The United Kingdom**
- D) France

7. Papua New Guinea's Independence Day is observed on September 16th, commemorating independence from which country in 1975?

- A) The United Kingdom
- B) Australia**
- C) New Zealand
- D) Indonesia

8. Tuvalu celebrates its Independence Day on October 1st, marking its independence from Great Britain in 1978. What was Tuvalu formerly known as?

- A) The Gilbert Islands
- B) The New Hebrides
- C) The Ellice Islands**
- D) The Fiji Islands

9. In 2026, American Samoa will host the final official America 250 celebration on Independence Day (July 4th) with a massive drone and pyrotechnic show. What is a unique aspect of this celebration due to the island's time zone?

- A) It will be the first in the world to celebrate the 4th of July.
- B) It will be the last official America 250 celebration across all U.S. states and territories on Independence Day 2026.**
- C) It will feature a drone show that spells out the names of all participating U.S. territories.
- D) It will be the only celebration with live musical performances from all 50 states.

10. Australia's public holiday calendar for 2026 includes various state-specific observances. In Queensland, which event, often called 'Ekka', is celebrated on Wednesday, August 12th in the Brisbane area?

- A) Queensland Day
- B) Royal Queensland Show**
- C) Gold Coast Show
- D) Cairns Show

11. New Zealand observes Matariki, a celebration of the Maori New Year. In 2026, on what date is Matariki scheduled?

- A) June 1st
- B) July 10th**
- C) August 1st
- D) September 1st

12. The Solomon Islands gained independence on July 7th, 1978. What was the name of the first prime minister of the Solomon Islands after independence?

- A) Matthew Wale
- B) Jeremiah Manele
- C) Peter Kenilorea**
- D) Alvaro de Mendaña

13. Vanuatu's Independence Day celebrations often include traditional dancing, military parades, and the drinking of which traditional beverage?

- A) Coconut water
- B) Kava**
- C) Fiji Bitter beer
- D) Taro juice

14. Samoa's Independence Day preparations for 2026 included a public competition to select the theme and emblem. How many entries were received for this competition?

- A) 5
- B) 11**
- C) 20
- D) 50

15. The nation of Tuvalu is recognized for its unique approach to sovereignty in the face of climate change. What significant constitutional amendment did Tuvalu make in 2023 regarding its statehood?

- A) It declared itself a republic.
- B) It amended its constitution to declare its statehood and maritime zones as permanent, regardless of physical territory.**
- C) It established a digital nation within its borders.
- D) It formed a military alliance with Australia and New Zealand.