

Landmarks of American Innovation and Firsts

American History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Who was the first person to serve as President of the United States?

- A) Thomas Jefferson
- B) George Washington**
- C) John Adams
- D) Benjamin Franklin

2. Which American inventor is credited with patenting the first practical incandescent light bulb?

- A) Nikola Tesla
- B) Alexander Graham Bell
- C) Thomas Edison**
- D) Eli Whitney

3. In 1903, the Wright brothers achieved the first powered, controlled flight in which U.S. state?

- A) North Carolina**
- B) Ohio
- C) Virginia
- D) California

4. What was the first permanent English settlement in North America, established in 1607?

- A) Plymouth
- B) Jamestown**
- C) Roanoke
- D) Salem

5. Which American inventor developed the telephone in 1876?

- A) Samuel Morse
- B) Alexander Graham Bell**
- C) Thomas Edison
- D) George Eastman

6. What device did Eli Whitney invent in 1793 that revolutionized the cotton industry?

- A) Cotton gin**
- B) Mechanical reaper
- C) Steam engine
- D) Power loom

7. Who was the first American woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?

- A) Bessie Coleman
- B) Sally Ride
- C) Amelia Earhart**
- D) Harriet Quimby

8. The first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed in which year?

- A) 1849
- B) 1869**
- C) 1889
- D) 1901

9. Which American scientist is famous for his experiments with electricity and the invention of the lightning rod?

- A) Benjamin Franklin**
- B) Isaac Newton
- C) Albert Einstein
- D) Nikola Tesla

10. What was the name of the first satellite launched into orbit by the United States in 1958?

- A) Apollo 11
- B) Vanguard 1
- C) Explorer 1**
- D) Gemini 4

11. Who was the first African American to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court?

- A) Thurgood Marshall**
- B) Clarence Thomas
- C) Frederick Douglass
- D) W.E.B. Du Bois

12. Which American innovator is known for creating the first mass-produced automobile, the Model T?

- A) Henry Ford**
- B) Louis Chevrolet
- C) Walter Chrysler
- D) Ransom Olds

13. What was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution in 1787?

- A) Pennsylvania
- B) New York
- C) Delaware**
- D) Virginia

14. In 1969, who became the first human to step onto the surface of the Moon?

- A) Buzz Aldrin
- B) Yuri Gagarin
- C) Michael Collins
- D) Neil Armstrong**

15. Which American journalist and author is credited with writing the first dictionary of American English?

- A) Noah Webster**
- B) Mark Twain
- C) Benjamin Franklin
- D) Ralph Waldo Emerson