

IN ENGLISH Education

AT POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



The Ivy League

How important is the year 1636 in the history of the USA? It was in that year that the first institution of higher education was founded in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, North America. What was its name? You guessed! Harvard College. Before the origin of the United States in 1776 nine colleges had been established in the colonies. Most of them became the future founders of the Ivy League which is in the northeastern geographic region of the United States.

The term Ivy League, which implies superb academic level, high competitiveness in admissions, and social elitism, was coined after the formation of the NCAA Division I Athletic Conference in 1954. It is now commonly used to refer to the group of 8 universities: Harvard, Yale (1701), the University of Pennsylvania

(1740), Princeton (1746), Columbia (1754), Brown University (1764), Dartmouth (1769), and Cornell University (1865). All of these universities have undergone a long and creative way to become the symbols of American educational excellence and are ranked among the most prestigious universities in the

USA. For instance, Yale's roots can be traced back to 1640s when the idea of preserving educational tradition in the New World emerged. The Reverend Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth, had originally aimed at educating Native Americans (Moor's Charity School in Lebanon, Connecticut).

American institutions of higher education are widely considered as the world's leaders in both innovation and development, as well as educational opportunities. Surprising as it may seem, it was Massachusetts that imposed requirements on towns with more than 50 families to provide schools at public expense, establishing the world's first compulsory free schools in the late 17th century (Stevenson, 1998). Most people dream of studying in the USA, admitting in unison that the best career opportunities are provided by American universities. Although the whole American educational system is full of myths (i.e. the drawbacks of Affirmative Action), serious misconceptions (i.e. spelling errors can be considered as the student's creativeness rather than laziness), and false images, the universities are and will prevail the source of success and self-realization.

Aleksander Kubot, MA
Teacher of English,
Dept. of Modern Languages, PUT

Sources:
Stevenson, D.K, American Life and Institutions, Ernst Klett (1998)
<http://www.brown.edu/about>
<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/au/>
<http://www.columbia.edu/>
<http://www.cornell.edu/>
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/>
<http://www.princeton.edu/main/about/>
<http://www.upenn.edu/about/heritage.php>
<http://www.yale.edu/about/history.html>

Correction: it has come to our attention that there is a mistake in the quiz about politics from July.

The answer to the 8th question is C (Bill Clinton) and not D (Jimmy Carter). We apologize for the misleading information.

EDUCATION IDIOMS

Check your knowledge of education idioms. Match idioms and their meanings.
The correct answers are given below. GOOD LUCK!!!

1. back to basics	A	an approach in education which uses traditional ideas or methods that have been successful in the past
2. teach one's grandmother to suck eggs	B	someone who reads a lot
3. bookworm	C	the special cap called a mortarboard and the robe that is worn during academic ceremonies such as graduation
4. cap and gown	D	someone who copies the work of another
5. copycat	E	count the number of people
6. count noses	F	get no response from someone when you ask them a question
7. draw a blank	G	a list of people/students with exceptional achievements
8. honor roll	H	a small group of older and famous eastern United States colleges and universities such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton
9. Ivy League	I	know the alphabet or the most basic things about something
10. learn by rote	J	learn or memorize something without thinking about it
11. teach someone a lesson	K	not be aware of the realities of everyday life
12. teacher's pet	L	pass something easily and with a high score
13. pass with flying colors	M	not go to school when you should
14. know one's ABCs	N	the ordinary experience of learning from work and daily life
15. live in an ivory tower	O	call the names of students in an attendance book and expect them to answer if they are there
16. university of life	P	try to tell or teach someone who knows more than you do how to do something
17. play hooky	R	do something to someone in order to punish them for their bad behavior
18. take the roll	S	the teacher's favorite student
19. the three R's	T	the three basic skills for a basic education - reading, (w)riting, and (a)rithmetic
20. school of hard knocks	U	learning from daily life and work rather than going to university

KEY: 1A, 2P, 3B, 4C, 5D, 6E, 7F, 8G, 9H, 10I, 11R, 12S, 13L, 14I, 15K, 16U, 17M, 18O, 19T, 20N

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS culture quiz

In November this year the Americans are electing their new president.
How much do you know about famous American presidents? Check yourself!
The answers are given at the bottom of the page.

1. Which president was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

- a. Theodore Roosevelt
- b. Chester Arthur
- c. George W. Bush
- d. James E. Carter

2. Which president proclaimed that the slaves in the southern states were to be freed?

- a. Ulysses S. Grant
- b. George Washington
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. Abraham Lincoln

3. Who was the first president to live in the White House?

- a. George Washington
- b. John Adams
- c. Thomas Jefferson
- d. James Monroe

4. Which president was known as the "Father of the Constitution"?

- a. Thomas Jefferson
- b. John Adams
- c. George Washington

d. James Madison

5. How many US presidents have been assassinated?

- a. Two
- b. Four
- c. Three
- d. Five

6. Which president was assassinated on the 22nd of November of 1963?

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. William McKinley
- c. John F. Kennedy
- d. James A. Garfield

7. Who ordered dropping of atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the 2nd World War?

- a. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- b. Harry Truman
- c. Theodore Roosevelt
- d. John F. Kennedy

8. Who was president when the U.S. engaged in the Persian Gulf Conflict in 1991?

- a. Jimmy Carter
- b. Bill Clinton
- c. Ronald Regan
- d. George Bush

9. Who was president when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated?

- a. John F. Kennedy
- b. Harry Truman
- c. Lyndon B. Johnson
- d. Richard Nixon

10. Which president introduced the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote?

- a. Woodrow Wilson
- b. Herbert Hoover
- c. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- d. William Howard Taft

Answers: 1 A, 2 D, 3 B, 4 D, 5 B, 6 C, 7 B, 8 D, 9 C, 10 A

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maja.rakiewicz@put.poznan.pl

