

KNOW YOUR CURRENT EVENTS

February 15, 2010

Directions: Write the answer to each question in the spaces provided on the Answer Sheet. Answer the questions with one word or just a few words. Good luck and enjoy the activity!

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Editor
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Directions for Use

There are a variety of creative ways that the 70 **Know Your Current Events** questions may be used successfully with seniors. You may adjust the use of the program based on your seniors' interests, the number of participants, and your own personal preferences. Enjoy the program!

If you have a large number of seniors who will be participating in your current events program, I would suggest the following procedure:

1. Duplicate copies of your most recent **Know Your Current Events** issue—one copy for each participant.
2. Make copies of the Answer Sheet—one copy for each table.
3. Divide adults into groups of 4—one table for each group.
4. Designate one person at each table to be responsible for recording answers on the Answer Sheet.
5. Pass out **Know Your Current Events** to each person. Each table should then discuss the possible answers and record on the Answer Sheet. Answer as many questions as possible.
6. After about 40 minutes, the Activities Director should call time (use your judgment) and read off the answers from the Answer Key. Then, each table should add up their correct answers to find out which group was most successful. It might be appropriate at this point to give a small prize to the winning team!
7. Announce that **Know Your Current Events** will meet again in two weeks.

If you have a small group of seniors, here are some suggestions:

- Ask questions and answers that will stimulate discussions.
- Give the question sheets to seniors. They will return in two week to meet as a group to go over the answers they found and receive their new questions. Encourage seniors to work in pairs or teams.
- Invite another group (a community group, firemen, policemen, etc.) and have a contest between your seniors and the group.

I have included 70 questions to give you wide latitude and creativity in using the program.

Above all, have fun with your seniors!

Know Your Current Events

2009 Year in Review

February 15, 2010

National Events

1. Mei Lan and Tai Shan were sent from their homes in American zoos back to their species' native home of China. What type of animals are they?
2. Simon and Schuster released the first authorized biography of what baseball legend, who played outfield for the Giants from 1951 to 1972 and is one of the most well-rounded players ever?
3. About what percentage of electricity in the United States comes from nuclear power? A. 5% B. 10% C. 15% D. 20%.
4. The New Orleans Saints upset the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 to capture their first Super Bowl in franchise history. Name the Saints' quarterback who took home MVP honors after completing 32 of 39 passes.
5. The term "Don't ask, don't tell" refers to what issue?
6. This month, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, signaling six more weeks of winter. In what state does he live?
7. Name the former Alaskan Governor who was the keynote speaker at the Tea Party convention held in Nashville last weekend.
8. Shoshana Johnson has written a book, *I'm Still Standing*, about her struggles after being rescued as a POW in Iraq in 2003. What does POW stand for?
9. Name the college women's basketball team that has now won 63 games in a row, all by ten points or more. They are coached by Geno Auriemma.

10. The 2010 Winter Olympics kick off this week in Vancouver, Canada. Name the female American skier who was a heavy favorite to win multiple gold medals but is now questionable after suffering a bruised shin.
11. New ketchup packets will be on the market soon. Customers can either dip or squeeze the contents. What company is introducing these new packets?
12. Considered to be one of the most important literary discoveries in decades, a plantation owner's diary from the mid-1800s was found to be a key source in the writings of what Southern writer known for novels like *The Sound and the Fury*?
13. The San Francisco Giants recently signed what reigning NL Cy Young Award winner to a 2-year, \$23 million deal?
14. Name the country music veteran who will celebrate 50 years in the music business with a concert in Connecticut. His hits include *The Gambler*, *Lucille*, and *Islands in the Stream*
15. After seven weeks as number one at the box office, *Avatar* was knocked out of first place this past weekend by what film?
16. Who is the author of the 1859 classic, *On the Origin of Species*?
17. President Obama announced that he would convene a televised bipartisan summit focusing on what issue that is presently stalled in Congress?
18. In what has become a very important event, college football's national signing day took place last week. Name the school who reeled in the nation's consensus #1 class in the face of questions surrounding the health of their head coach.
19. In early February, which part of the United States suffered a major blizzard, dumping up to 2 feet of snow on the area? A. Mid-Atlantic states B. New England states C. Upper-Midwest states.
20. Name the daytime talk show program that debuted in 1997 and has now explored political issues and guests, including President Obama.
21. Name the dance variety show that began in 1970 and showcased performers like James Brown and the Jackson 5 during its 36-year syndication.
22. In what state did a power plant explosion recently occur? The power plant, which was under construction, killed several people.

23. In what many consider to be the best rivalry in college basketball, Duke upended North Carolina 64-54. Name the Tar Heels head coach who has questioned his team's effort over the past few weeks.
24. Identify the new judge on *American Idol*.
25. First Lady Michelle Obama has taken on what health issue as her focus as the wife of the president?
26. Name the Los Angeles Lakers' superstar who will have to sit out the NBA All-Star game because of an injured ankle.
27. The America's Cup race begins this week. What is the sport?
28. According to the Nielsen ratings, the 2nd most watched television program ever was the finale of *M-A-S-H* IN 1983. Which program is now number one?
29. New photographs were released last week of what event that occurred in New York City in 2001?
30. The United States launched the space shuttle *Endeavour* last week. It was delivering materials to what object in orbit?
31. A new biography subtitled *Man in White* explores the last years of American author Samuel Langhorne Clemens. What is Clemens's penname?
32. Some pundits see the Tea Party as a potential third party in American politics. Who received over 19 million votes in the 1992 presidential election, the most of any third party candidate in history?
33. Twenty years ago this month, Buster Douglas knocked out what talented but troubled boxer to win the heavyweight crown?
34. Name the Iraqi war drama that was named best picture by the National Society of Film Critics. The film focuses on an elite army bomb squad that disarms explosive devices.
35. After author J.D. Salinger's death last month, critics continue to debate his literary legacy. Name the magazine where Salinger published most of his stories.

International Events

36. Although exact numbers are unknown, roughly how many people died as a result of last month's earthquake in Haiti? A. 20,000 B. 200,000 C. 2 million.
37. What African country is the largest crude oil producer on the continent? Half of its production comes to the United States. A. Ghana B. South Africa C. Morocco D. Nigeria.
38. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has designated what individual to take over aid relief and reconstruction in earthquake-ravaged Haiti?
39. The highest price for a piece of art sold at an auction occurred last week in London, as a sculpture by Alberto Giacometti went for \$104.3 million. What is the sculpture?
40. Forty-year-old Alexander McQueen was found dead after an apparent suicide. McQueen was a world-renowned innovator in what form of design?
41. What is the name of the famous Russian ballet that will be performing in Cuba in mid-February?
42. In the winter Olympics, what is the name of the sport, similar to bowling and shuffleboard, that is played on ice?
43. Printed on rolls of rice paper, a 12 foot by 5 foot map of the world went on display recently at The Library of Congress. The map is 400 years old. What country is depicted as the center of the world?
44. One of the world's biggest and most famous parties is the four-day spectacle in Rio de Janeiro known as what?
45. Last week, European countries became concerned that this country might go into default, so nations will most likely lend money to this country.
46. The country of Myanmar holds over 2,100 dissidents in jail for their protests against this militaristic and repressive government. This country was formerly called A. British Honduras B. Burma C. East Pakistan D. Zaire.
47. What is the leading sport in India, cricket or soccer?
48. Pro-government demonstrations occurred in this Middle Eastern country, celebrating 31 years of the overthrow of the Shah. Identify the country.

49. The Chinese New Year begins on February 14 in 2010. It's the Year of the _____ . A. Monkey B. Snake C. Tiger D. Dog.
50. The Chinese government urged President Obama to cancel his meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader known as what?

Economy and Business

51. The inventor of the Pluto Platter died last week. In 1957, Wham-O bought the rights to the Pluto Platter, and it became known as what?
52. A week after the recall of 8 million vehicles for “sticky” gas pedals, Toyota recalled another 400,000 cars for faulty brakes. Name the hybrid model mostly affected by the latest recall.
53. What is the price tag of President Obama’s 2011 federal budget? A. \$3.8 trillion B. \$1.65 trillion C. \$9.2 trillion.
54. What is the current interest rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage on a house? A. 3% B. 4% C.5% D.6%.
55. Name the high end jewelry retailer in the United States. Its stock symbol is TIF.N.
56. Name the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury who has been under attack for the high level of U.S. debt.
57. In December, the U.S. exported \$142 billion in goods and services and imported \$183 billion in goods and services. The difference in these two numbers is referred to as the trade _____.
58. What is the tax rate for employees that pay into Social Security and Medicare (together)? A. 3.50 % B. 4.95% C.6.15% D. 7.65%
59. What is the name of the tax form most Americans fill out and turn in to the federal government by April 15?
60. What is the total debt of the United States? A. \$12.3 trillion B. \$3.8 trillion C. \$20 trillion D. \$1 trillion.

History and Geography

61. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States, with a depth of over 1,900 feet. Crater Lake National Park is located in what state?

62. Who wrote this famous line of poetry? "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"
63. Bogotá is the capital of what South American country?
64. Name the airport located 25 miles west of the Washington, D.C. area that is named after a former U.S. Secretary of State.
65. In 1990, the South African government released what noted civil rights leader after 27 years of confinement?
66. Name three of the four most populated countries in the world.
67. Name the American composer (Russian-born) whose hits include "Puttin' on the Ritz," "White Christmas," and "God Bless America."
68. Jefferson City is the capital of which U.S. state?
69. In 1948, Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9811, which _____ the U.S. armed forces.
70. Name the early-17th century French explorer who traveled up the St. Lawrence River and explored the area on both sides of the river. A lake in New York is named after him.

Know Your Current Events
Answer Key—February 15, 2010

1. Panda bears
2. Willie Mays
3. D. 20%
4. Drew Brees
5. Gays/military
6. Pennsylvania
7. Sarah Palin
8. Prisoner of War
9. University of Connecticut
10. Lindsay Vonn
11. Heinz
12. William Faulkner
13. Tim Lincecum
14. Kenny Rogers
15. *Dear John*
16. Charles Darwin
17. Health Care
18. University of Florida
19. A. Mid-Atlantic states
20. *The View*
21. *Soul Train*
22. Connecticut
23. Roy Williams
24. Ellen De Generes
25. Childhood obesity
26. Kobe Bryant
27. Sailing race
28. Super Bowl XLIV
29. World Trade Center attack
30. International Space Station
31. Mark Twain
32. Ross Perot
33. Mike Tyson
34. *The Hurt Locker*
35. *The New Yorker*
36. B. 200,000
37. D. Nigeria
38. Bill Clinton
39. A man walking
40. Fashion
41. Bolshoi Ballet
42. Curling
43. China
44. Carnival
45. Greece
46. B. Burma
47. Cricket
48. Iran
49. Tiger
50. The Dalai Lama
51. Frisbee
52. Prius
53. A. \$3.8 trillion
54. C. 5%
55. Tiffany and Co.
56. Timothy Geithner
57. Deficit or gap
58. D. 7.65%
59. 1040
60. A. \$12.3 trillion
61. Oregon
62. William Shakespeare
63. Colombia
64. Dulles
65. Nelson Mandela
66. China/India/U.S./Indonesia
67. Irving Berlin
68. Missouri
69. Desegregated
70. Samuel de Champlain

Know Your Current Events

Answer Sheet
February 15, 2010

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