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CIR's Corner

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Hello everyone! "CIR's Corner" is my monthly article about international exchange and cultures around the world. I will introduce a variety of interesting international topics.

This Month's Topic: America True or False Quiz

On July 25, I gave a presentation at Harunire Adult Daycare Center about American life and culture. I used a true or false quiz to introduce various aspects of American culture, so this month, I will share the quiz with my readers. Go ahead and give it a try! If you read this monthly article, or attend my English conversation classes, you've probably heard me talk about America a lot. So, can you get them all right?

1. There are a lot of people with blond hair and blue eyes in America.
True or false?
2. The Declaration of Independence states that the official language of the US is English.
True or false?
3. Hamburgers are a traditional American food.
True or false?
4. America has fewer national holidays than Japan.
True or false?
5. The day of the annual football championship is a national holiday.
True or false?
6. Laws vary by state.
True or false?

I'll explain the answers below.

1. False

America was built by immigrants, so there are people of many races and ethnicities. White people,

who originally came from Europe, make up about 60% of the population. However, there are also many African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, people with mixed heritage, and people of other races and ethnicities.

There are areas in America with few white people. My hometown, Seattle, was about 70% white, but my particular ZIP code area was one of the most diverse areas in the United States. The percentage of Black, white, and Asian American residents was about equal. Actually, the white population of the United States is decreasing, and is projected to fall under 50% by 2045.



My class in middle school. There were only two blond-haired, blue-eyed kids.

2. False

The Declaration of Independence states the right for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," but it doesn't say anything about a national language. There was no official language of the United States until President Trump signed an executive order to make English the official language in March of this

year.

There are over 300 languages spoken in the US, and among those, Spanish is the most widely spoken. About 43 million Americans (13.7%) speak Spanish at home.

3. False

America doesn't have a traditional food culture like Japan does. From around 400 years ago, colonists and immigrants have brought their countries' food culture with them. They use ingredients commonly found in America to make their traditional dishes into American dishes.

So, where did the hamburger originally come from? The answer is Germany. The name "hamburger" originates from the name of the German city, Hamburg. However, American hamburgers are now quite different from the German dish that inspired them.

By the way, French fries are often served with hamburgers, but they didn't originate in France. It is thought that they came from Belgium.



4. True

Japan has 16 national holidays, while the US has only 10. The biggest holidays are Christmas, [Thanksgiving](#), and the [4th of July \(Independence Day\)](#), but we have many celebrations that aren't official holidays, such as [Halloween](#) and [Easter](#).

If you would like to know more about these holidays, click the above links to read my *CIR's Corner* articles.

5. False

Football is America's most popular sport, and the annual championship is called the Super Bowl. It's not an official holiday, but it's a special day for many people. Super Bowl parties are held at bars

and people's homes. People eat party food like chicken wings and pizza, and drink a lot of beer. People watch the game with their friends and families. In the middle of the game, there is a halftime show, where America's top artists perform.

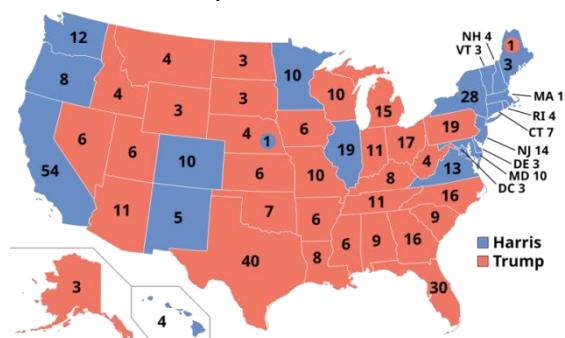


6. True

When America gained independence, Americans were opposed to a central government system like Great Britain's, so they adopted federalism for their new government. The constitution grants sovereignty to each state, so as long as the states do not violate the constitution, they can freely decide their own laws.

For example, a hot topic recently is abortion. It's legal in some states, legal only in special cases in some states, and illegal in others.

It's clear that the values of the American people vary across states as well. Below is a map of the 2024 election results. Kamala Harris won the blue states, and Donald Trump won the red states. Blue states tend to be more liberal and vote for democrats, while red states tend to be more conservative and vote for republicans. Therefore, America is divided. Trump has become president, but the people are not united. I believe they are more divided than ever.



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