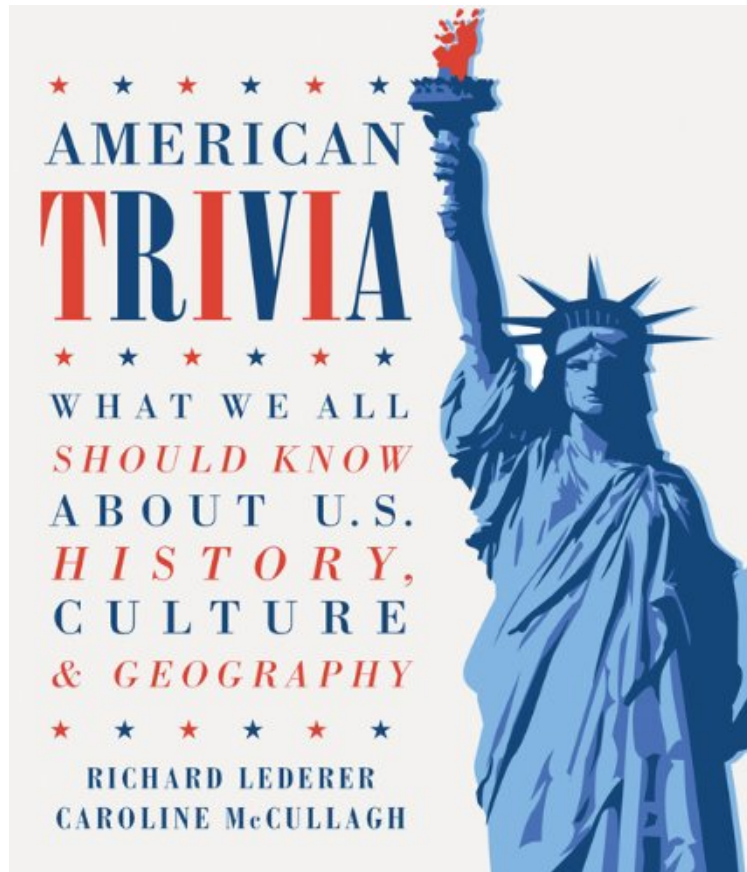


American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture Geography

Richard Lederer, Caroline McCullagh
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Go beyond baseball, hot dogs, and apple pie! American Trivia includes the origin of the national anthem, stories about

national treasures such as the Liberty Bell and Statue of Liberty, fascinating information about the country's many heroes and inventors, and more! Richard Lederer is the author of more than thirty-five books about language, history, and humor, including his best-selling *Anguished English* series. He is founding cohost of *A Way with Words* on public radio and his syndicated column, "Looking at Language," appears in newspapers and magazines throughout the United States. He lives in San Diego. Caroline McCullagh earned a master's degree in anthropology from the University of California, San Diego. She is the author of four novels, a cookbook, a student opera, and writes monthly garden book reviews for the San Diego Horticultural Society. She lives in San Diego.

From the Back Cover **BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT** Oraibi, a Hopi Indian settlement in Arizona, is at least five hundred years older than New York City. Clarence Birdseye developed a process for flash freezing food after watching Inuits in Labrador freeze fish and caribou meat. Idaho and Hawaii are the only states that have never been owned by a foreign nation. Benjamin Franklin wanted the wild turkey to be the national bird, complaining that the bald eagle was "a bird of bad moral character." **AMERICAN TRIVIA** is chock-full of engaging facts, riddles, and quizzes about the people, places, and events that make this nation great, including the origins of its national anthem; national treasures such as the Liberty Bell and Statue of Liberty; baseball, the national pastime; and many heroes and inventors who have added to the country's legacy. **About the Author** Richard Lederer is the author of more than 35 books about language, history, and humor, including his best-selling *Anguished English* series. He is founding cohost of *A Way with Words* on public radio and his syndicated column, "Looking at Language," appears in newspapers and magazines throughout the United States. He lives in San Diego. Caroline McCullagh earned a master's degree in anthropology from the University of California, San Diego. She is the author of four novels, a cookbook, a student opera, and writes monthly garden book reviews for the San Diego Horticultural Society. She lives in San Diego. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, a federal constitutional republic covering 3.79 million square miles, is home to a population of almost 315 million people. Our nation is composed of fifty states; one federal district: Washington, D.C.; three territories: American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and two commonwealths: Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands. What are the ties that bind together a country as far-reaching and diverse as ours? Throughout our history, we've lived through the best of times, and we've also lived through the worst of times; yet the heart of our society continues to beat mightily.