August Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which country observes its National Day on August 1 in connection with a charter dated to early August 1291?
   - A. Switzerland
   - B. Austria
   - C. Denmark
   - D. Ireland

   Correct answer: A. Switzerland
   The Swiss government links its national observance to the Federal Charter of 1291. The document is kept in Schwyz.

2. Which island nation’s archived proclamation declares it an independent republic on August 9, 1965?
   - A. Iceland
   - B. Sri Lanka
   - C. Singapore
   - D. Barbados

   Correct answer: C. Singapore
   The National Archives of Singapore displays the proclamation dated August 9, 1965, which declares Singapore a sovereign and independent nation.

3. On which date in August does the United Nations mark International Youth Day every year?
   - A. August 2
   - B. August 12
   - C. August 20
   - D. August 31

   Correct answer: B. August 12
   The UN General Assembly endorsed August 12 as International Youth Day following a recommendation from a 1998 conference in Lisbon.

4. Which national observance does India mark on August 15 each year?
   - A. National Science Day
   - B. Republic Day
   - C. Constitution Day
   - D. Independence Day

   Correct answer: D. Independence Day
   India’s national portal links the observance to independence from British rule on August 15, 1947.

5. Which city opened the 2024 Paralympic Games on August 28 with a ceremony at Place de la Concorde and the Champs-Élysées?

A. Brussels
B. Paris
C. Lyon
D. Geneva

Correct answer: B. Paris
The International Paralympic Committee records the ceremony in central Paris. It was the first Paralympic opening ceremony held outside a stadium.

6. Which photographic process was publicly described in Paris on August 19, 1839, according to the Smithsonian’s historical record?

A. The daguerreotype
B. Instant color film
C. Digital photography
D. The dry plate process

Correct answer: A. The daguerreotype
The Smithsonian record identifies the daguerreotype as the process presented at the August meeting of the French Academy of Sciences.

7. According to the Panama Canal Authority, which direction did the SS Ancon take on the August 15, 1914 inaugural transit?

A. From the Atlantic side back to the Atlantic side
B. From the Pacific side to the Atlantic side
C. From the Pacific side to the Indian Ocean
D. From the Atlantic side to the Pacific side

Correct answer: D. From the Atlantic side to the Pacific side
The canal authority records the ship entering on the Atlantic side and completing its transit on the Pacific side.

8. What was the model number of the IBM Personal Computer introduced in August 1981?

A. 701
B. 650
C. 5150
D. 360

Correct answer: C. 5150
IBM identifies the August 1981 launch as the arrival of its 5150 Personal Computer. The model helped popularize general-purpose desktop computing.

9. Parks Canada records an August 1896 gold discovery on what was then Rabbit Creek. What is the later name of that creek?

A. Bonanza Creek
B. Fraser River
C. Eldorado Creek
D. Bear Creek

Correct answer: A. Bonanza Creek
Parks Canada identifies the present site as Bonanza Creek in Yukon and gives Rabbit Creek as its earlier name.

10. South Africa’s Women’s Day recalls the August 9, 1956 march to the Union Buildings. In which city are those buildings?

A. Bloemfontein
B. Durban
C. Cape Town
D. Pretoria

Correct answer: D. Pretoria
The South African government records the gathering at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The march opposed restrictions imposed under apartheid.

11. What did the National Museum of Australia record Gough Whitlam placing in Vincent Lingiari’s hand at the August 16, 1975 handback?

A. A photograph of Parliament
B. A gold medal
C. A handful of soil
D. A set of building keys

Correct answer: C. A handful of soil
The museum describes Whitlam pouring soil into Lingiari’s hand during the return of part of Gurindji land.

12. NASA dates Voyager 2’s launch to August 20, 1977 and its closest Neptune approach to August 25, 1989. How much time separates the two dates?

A. 11 years and 5 days
B. 12 years and 5 days
C. 12 years and 25 days
D. 13 years and 5 days

Correct answer: B. 12 years and 5 days
From August 20, 1977 to August 20, 1989 is 12 years. The spacecraft’s closest approach came five days later.

13. NASA released an exoplanet atmosphere result on August 25, 2022, using a July 10 Webb observation of WASP-39 b. Which pairing matches the record?

A. Nitrogen was detected, and the observation took place on the announcement date.
B. Carbon dioxide was detected, and the observation followed the announcement.
C. Oxygen was detected, and the observation preceded the announcement.
D. Carbon dioxide was detected, and the observation preceded the announcement.

Correct answer: D. Carbon dioxide was detected, and the observation preceded the announcement.
The announcement identifies carbon dioxide. The spectrum was collected in July and the finding was announced in August.

14. The UN says its August 9 Indigenous Peoples observance recalls a working group’s first meeting in 1982. In which city did that meeting take place?

A. Geneva
B. Vienna
C. Nairobi
D. New York

Correct answer: A. Geneva
The UN identifies Geneva as the location of the 1982 working-group meeting. Its General Assembly established the annual day in 1994.

15. A timeline puts the creation of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916. Where does that point belong relative to the establishment of Yellowstone in 1872?

A. After Yellowstone, by 24 years
B. Before Yellowstone, by 44 years
C. After Yellowstone, by 44 years
D. Before Yellowstone, by 24 years

Correct answer: C. After Yellowstone, by 44 years
The National Park Service dates the Organic Act to 1916. Yellowstone’s establishment was in 1872, 44 years earlier by the year numbers.