NBA Teams and History Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Stephen Curry received the 2022 NBA Finals MVP award while playing for which team?

A. Golden State Warriors
B. Boston Celtics
C. Dallas Mavericks
D. Phoenix Suns

Correct answer: A. Golden State Warriors
Curry won the 2022 Finals MVP with the Warriors. Golden State defeated Boston in six games.

2. Which team won its first NBA championship by defeating the Miami Heat in the 2023 Finals?

A. Utah Jazz
B. Phoenix Suns
C. Denver Nuggets
D. Indiana Pacers

Correct answer: C. Denver Nuggets
Denver clinched the series in Game 5. It was the Nuggets' first NBA championship.

3. With which franchise did Bill Russell win all eleven of his NBA championships as a player?

A. Los Angeles Lakers
B. Boston Celtics
C. Philadelphia 76ers
D. New York Knicks

Correct answer: B. Boston Celtics
Russell played his thirteen NBA seasons for Boston and won eleven titles. He was also the Celtics' player-coach for his last two championships.

4. Which NBA team became the first franchise based outside the United States to win the league title in 2019?

A. Portland Trail Blazers
B. Vancouver Grizzlies
C. Seattle SuperSonics
D. Toronto Raptors

Correct answer: D. Toronto Raptors
Toronto defeated Golden State in the 2019 Finals, delivering the first NBA championship to a team based outside the United States.

5. Which team won the inaugural NBA Cup by beating Indiana in the December 2023 final?

A. Milwaukee Bucks
B. Los Angeles Lakers
C. New Orleans Pelicans
D. Sacramento Kings

Correct answer: B. Los Angeles Lakers
The Lakers beat the Pacers in the final of the league’s first In-Season Tournament, earning the first NBA Cup.

6. Which team finished the 1995–96 NBA regular season with 72 wins and 10 losses before winning the championship?

A. Chicago Bulls
B. Seattle SuperSonics
C. Houston Rockets
D. Orlando Magic

Correct answer: A. Chicago Bulls
Chicago posted a 72–10 regular-season record and defeated Seattle in the 1996 NBA Finals.

7. Dallas won its first NBA title in 2011 with Dirk Nowitzki as Finals MVP. Which team did the Mavericks defeat in that series?

A. Chicago Bulls
B. Boston Celtics
C. Orlando Magic
D. Miami Heat

Correct answer: D. Miami Heat
The Mavericks took the series against Miami in six games. Nowitzki received the Finals MVP award.

8. How many regular-season games did each team play in the NBA’s lockout-shortened 1998–99 season?

A. 60
B. 55
C. 50
D. 66

Correct answer: C. 50
The labor stoppage delayed the start of play, so the NBA used a 50-game schedule that season.

9. In the 1946 game recognized by the NBA as its first, which team hosted the New York Knicks at Maple Leaf Gardens?

A. Toronto Huskies
B. Detroit Falcons
C. Chicago Stags
D. Boston Celtics

Correct answer: A. Toronto Huskies
The Toronto Huskies hosted the Knicks on November 1, 1946. The clubs played in the Basketball Association of America, a predecessor recognized by the NBA.

10. Which team did Oscar Robertson play for when he averaged a triple-double in 1961–62?

A. Philadelphia Warriors
B. Milwaukee Bucks
C. St. Louis Hawks
D. Cincinnati Royals

Correct answer: D. Cincinnati Royals
Robertson averaged double figures in points, rebounds, and assists for Cincinnati during that season.

11. After Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was injured during the 1980 Finals, which rookie guard filled in at center to start Game 6 for the Lakers?

A. Norm Nixon
B. Michael Cooper
C. Magic Johnson
D. Byron Scott

Correct answer: C. Magic Johnson
Johnson started at center and played several positions in the clinching game. The Lakers won the title in Philadelphia.

12. Which list contains all four franchises that moved from the ABA to the NBA for the 1976–77 season?

A. Denver, Indiana, Kentucky, and San Antonio
B. Denver, Indiana, New York Nets, and San Antonio
C. Denver, New York Nets, San Antonio, and Virginia
D. Indiana, New York Nets, San Antonio, and St. Louis

Correct answer: B. Denver, Indiana, New York Nets, and San Antonio
The Denver Nuggets, Indiana Pacers, New York Nets, and San Antonio Spurs joined the NBA. The other markets in the answer choices did not add a franchise in that merger.

13. Which St. Louis Hawks player became the NBA’s first regular-season Most Valuable Player in 1955–56?

A. Paul Arizin
B. George Mikan
C. Dolph Schayes
D. Bob Pettit

Correct answer: D. Bob Pettit
Pettit received the first regular-season MVP award. He later won the award again in 1958–59.

14. Which two franchises began NBA play in 1989–90, one season after the league added Miami and Charlotte?

A. Orlando Magic and Minnesota Timberwolves
B. Toronto Raptors and Vancouver Grizzlies
C. Orlando Magic and Charlotte Hornets
D. Minnesota Timberwolves and Miami Heat

Correct answer: A. Orlando Magic and Minnesota Timberwolves
Orlando and Minnesota entered in 1989–90. Miami and Charlotte began the preceding season. Toronto and Vancouver joined in 1995.

15. Which three awards did Hakeem Olajuwon win in the 1993–94 season, when Houston earned its first NBA title?

A. All-Star Game MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, and Finals MVP
B. Rookie of the Year, regular-season MVP, and Finals MVP
C. Regular-season MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, and Finals MVP
D. Regular-season MVP, Sixth Man of the Year, and Finals MVP

Correct answer: C. Regular-season MVP, Defensive Player of the Year, and Finals MVP
Olajuwon earned the regular-season MVP and defensive award, then added Finals MVP as Houston defeated New York.