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THE GREAT PHILLY MAG
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

QUIZ

50

PART ONE

Answer Key

1. The Native Americans first encountered by Europeans in our region were the Lenni Lenape, whose name means what? Believe it or not, it's (c), "Real people." Other translations of "Lenni" include "genuine" and "pure." If you guessed (b) or (d), though, you were kind of geographically close. The town of Perkasio in Bucks County is "the place where hickory nuts are cracked," and Wissahickon, as in the valley, the avenue, and the creek, means "catfish stream."

2. Lenni Lenape tribes occupied parts of which future states when European colonists first arrived? It's (a), Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. If you guessed (d), give yourself an F: Those are the states where members of the tribe wound up after they were pushed and swindled out of their original territory.

3. A bronze statue outside Independence Hall bears the inscription "Robert Morris / Patriot Statesman Financier / 1734-1806." Which of the following was a Native American nickname for Morris? The answer, (b), "Greater Eater With a Big Belly," doesn't refer to Morris's girth—just to his insatiable appetite for stealing Native American territory. The premier land speculator of the early colony, Morris engineered the Treaty of Big Tree, in which the Seneca Nation gave up 3.5 million acres of land for 2.5 cents per acre—and 1,500 rations of whiskey per day for the Native negotiators.

4. Alexander Stirling Calder's 1924 Swann Memorial Fountain, in Logan Circle, features three major Indigenous figures: a man, a woman, and a girl. What are the trio intended to symbolize? It's (d), the Delaware, the Schuylkill, and the Wissahickon Creek, in that order. And that makes sense: The work honors Dr. Wilson Cary Swann, founder of the Philadelphia Fountain Society, which endowed sources

of fresh drinking water across the city. Bronze swans, frogs, and turtles also adorn the fountain, whose opening was celebrated by 10,000 people dancing a tango in the street.

5. The three main clans of the Lenni Lenape were ... You win if you chose (a), the Turtle, the Wolf, and the Turkey clans. You lose if—sucker!—you went with the Eagles, the Falcons, and the Rams. This isn't a game, yo!

6. A popular pastime among the Lenape, *Pahsahēman*, was a form of football, which they may have learned from the Shawnee. It used a soft deerskin ball filled with hair, and the teams were sometimes coed and sometimes men versus women. Which of these was NOT true? Take a point for (d)—they used sticks, not stones, to keep score. Specifically, a pile of 12 sticks; if your team got the ball through the goalposts, the team got a stick. When all the sticks were gone, whichever team had the most sticks won. Also true? This was a much better game than football today.

7. Which of these was NOT among the ways William Penn's son Thomas cheated the Lenni Lenape in the infamous Walking Purchase? Um, hello, (d). The Walking Purchase was in 1737. Bicycles wouldn't be invented (in Germany) for another 80 years. Historical note: As a consequence of Thomas's efforts to oust the tribe, Lenape members joined forces with the French and massacred the settlers at Penn's Creek in 1755. Karma's a bitch.

8. Which founding father was charged with organizing officers and weaponry to fight the Lenni Lenape in the new commonwealth of Pennsylvania? You may not think of him as bloodthirsty, but it was (b), Ben Franklin, more fondly pictured by us flying a kite and wearing bifocals. If it had been (d), Alexander Hamilton, you'd have seen it in the musical, silly.

9. Which local cultural institution recently opened a gallery devoted to exploring "the histories and living cultures of Native peoples across the United States who are still thriving—despite attempts to erase their Indigenous identities, cultures, and languages"? Head on down to (c), the Penn Museum, which debuted its new Native North America Gallery in late November 2025. Lots of other local institutions have sterling Indigenous collections and exhibits, too, including those listed as your choices.

SCORING

7 to 9 correct: Impressive! Serious Philly cred earned

4 to 6 correct: We can tell you had a whole semester on Indigenous American history. Too bad it was back in fourth grade.

0 to 3 correct: Are you even *from* here? Better brush up before next month's quiz.