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THE GREAT PHILLY MAG
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

QUIZ

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PART TWO

Answer Key

- 1. Which European nation was the first to establish a lasting settlement in our region?** It was (b), Sweden, that claimed the honor, founding New Sweden in 1638. But since the Swedes at the time were running an empire that encompassed much of the Baltic area, it turns out that the guy who organized the expedition, Cars Larsson Fleming, was Finnish. And the guy who led that initial foray, Peter Minuit, was actually German. Sort of. His family was originally Dutch, but ... oh hell, Europe back then was complicated.
- 2. For whom was the original fort those first settlers (invaders?) established named?** Hope you recognized (d), Queen Christina, from Fort Christina on the banks of the Delaware, not to mention the Christiana River and the town of the same name. She was quite the royal character: First thought to be male at birth because she was so hairy and lusty, she was extremely educated; sometimes dressed in male clothing; had a keen interest in theater, art, literature, and science; founded a newspaper; never married; converted to Catholicism; and finally abdicated, winding up in exile and traveling throughout Europe. She sounds extremely cool.
- 3. Which war was raging in Europe when settlement here began?** Take a point for (b), the Thirty Years' War, which was waged mostly in Central Europe (among those participating were Spain, Bohemia, the Dutch Republic, France, Hungary, Croatia ...) from 1618 to (duh) 1648. It proved one of the most disastrous and destructive of human conflicts, wiping out somewhere between five million and eight million people, including half the population of Germany. Incidentally, (d), the Three Hundred and Thirty-Five Years' War? That's not a joke; it was "an alleged state of war" between, of all places, the Netherlands and the Isle of Scilly, just off Great Britain, that ran between 1651 and 1986 without a single shot ever being fired. Hostile!

4. What's the oldest brick building within the current city of Philadelphia? Holy moly. It's (d), Gloria Dei Church, as evidenced by its other name: Old Swedes' Church. It stands at 916 South Swanson Street in the Southwark neighborhood, at (ironically) South Christopher Columbus Boulevard and Washington Avenue; construction began in 1698 and finished in 1700. Originally Swedish Lutheran in affiliation, it's now Episcopalian, and though it's a National Historic Site, it still holds Sunday services. Historical tidbit: Betsy Ross got married there!

5. The Nothnagle Log House, described as "the oldest log cabin in the Western Hemisphere that is still standing where it was built," is in which local town? Hello, (c), Gibbstown, New Jersey—specifically, at 406 Swedesboro Road, where it was erected sometime between 1638 and 1643 by Swedish pioneers. It's 16 feet wide and 22 feet long, which was considered quite expansive at the time. In 2024, the widowed owner, Doris Rink, sold it for \$135,000—a true bargain, but the buyers agreed to preserve the cabin, so Rink reduced the price from the original \$2.9 million. *(Editor's note: The original version of this quiz had "Gibbsboro" instead of "Gibbstown" as the answer, which, um, was totally wrong. We apologize for the confusion and thank the schoolteacher who called the error to our attention!)*

6. What main commodities did our region's original European settlers intend to trade for with the Leni Lenape? They were after (d), furs and tobacco, the latter of which had been introduced to Europe by Christopher Columbus on his return from Cuba. A contemporary writer, Bartolomé de las Casas, described the act of smoking as making partakers "benumbed and almost drunk" and yet unfatigued. Kick yourself if you chose (a), corn and cotton; though maize is indeed native to North America, cotton was developed independently in both the Old World and the New World. Our name for it comes from the Arabic *qutn*.

7. Swedesford Road runs through both Chester and Montgomery counties these days. But what is the town once known as Swedesford called now? Welcome to (a), Norristown, which was renamed in honor of Isaac Norris, a mayor of Philadelphia and slave trader who was a great friend of William Penn's. Karma note: He originally came to Philly to arrange for his family to move here, but when he returned to their then home in Jamaica, he found that they had all died in the Port Royal earthquake of 1692. Sad. 🙄

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.

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8. Today, there's a park named for the initial settlement's most powerful and successful (albeit much disliked) governor on the site of that settlement. What's it called?

It's Essington's (a), Governor Printz Park, namesake of the third governor of New Sweden, Johan Bjornsson Printz (1592–1663). The 400-pound former Swedish military officer was nicknamed “Big Belly” by the Leni Lenape, who were consistently impressed with Europeans' girth. They meant it fondly, though; he dealt with them kindly and fairly. Less fond of him were the settlers he ruled, who considered him an autocrat, especially after he had one of them hanged for protesting his regime.

9. Among the Alexander Milne Calder statues adorning Philly's City Hall clock tower are two that represent members of that original cohort of settlers. Which side do they adorn? Okay, okay, there's no reason on God's green

earth why you would know this, but we needed another question. It's (b), the south side, baby; the two on the north represent the Lenape. Then again, there are 250 freaking statues on City Hall, so it's not like Calder was giving huge props to the Swedes.

10. When William Penn founded the colony that became Pennsylvania, he named its first settlement after the city of Philadelphia in what is now which country? Hold the

stuffing—it's (b), Turkey, though the region was known as Lydia in ancient days. And here we always thought Penn came up with “City of Brotherly Love” all on his own. Next month, more on those Quakers!

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