

P

THE GREAT PHILLY MAG
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

QUIZ

50

PART THREE

Answer Key

1. Why are the Quakers called Quakers? It's d), their founder warned a judge to "quake before the authority of God." That founder was named George Fox, btw, not George Quaker. A number of dissident religious sects, including Fox's, took hold in the upheaval that followed the English Civil War (1642–1651). After the 1662 Act of Uniformity outlawed any religious ceremonies other than those of the Church of England, many Quakers fled to the New World in search of religious freedom. "Quaker" was originally a derogatory nickname for the Society of Friends, but the contrary sect chose to embrace it.

2. When William Penn was four years old, he lost all his hair after falling ill with smallpox. What did he do for the rest of his life? A tip of the hat to, ahem, b), wore wigs. Up until he went to college, Penn wore the fancy curly kind known as a peruke, but once he joined the Quakers, he toned it down to what George Fox described as "a very short, civil thing."

3. How large was the grant of land made to Penn by King Charles II of England in 1681, in return for Penn's promise to get the troublesome Quakers out of Charles's kingdom? The grant, made partly to satisfy the Crown's financial debts to Penn's dad, Admiral William Penn Sr., was for c), 45,000 square miles, which even today stands as the largest grant of land ever made to anyone in North America. Of course, it wasn't Charles's to give. But when did that ever stop a king?

4. How many children did Penn have? Gulp. It was d), 17. Hey, procreation was considered one's duty, ya know? And Penn did have two wives, so it wasn't all on one poor woman. Only seven of those offspring survived into adulthood, which was pretty much par for the course—and will be again if RFK Jr. gets his way.

5. How did William Penn's father react when he learned his young-adult son had joined the dissident Quaker sect? Hope you chose a), he disowned him. By that point, Penn Sr. had already beaten his son with a cane for getting kicked out of his college at Oxford (due to "rioting in the quadrangle" with

Quaker buddies) and sent him to Paris in hopes that he'd see the error of his ways. Instead, Penn Jr. came home to an England ravaged by the Black Death and fell in even more tightly with the itinerant Quaker preacher Thomas Loe. It was the last straw for old Dad.

6. How did Penn Sr. react when he learned his son had been arrested for violating a law prohibiting gatherings of more than five members of anything but the Church of England?

This time it's c), he restored his inheritance. Somewhat surprisingly, Penn Sr. approved of this stance as a sign of his son's newfound seriousness of purpose and reinstated him as his heir.

7. What was Penn's first choice of name for his new colony?

The correct choice is d), New Wales, but he then settled on b), Sylvania, from the Latin for "forests" or "woods." It was Charles II who added the "Penn," to William's self-effacing (so Quaker!) chagrin. Not every famous man insists on naming everything he touches after himself.

8. Penn sold land in his new colony to a group of Welsh businessmen for a county of their own. Prominent among them was malt maker John Roberts, who would establish a family dynasty that eventually included a ferry operator, an original member of Ben Franklin's Library Company, a civil engineer, a Revolutionary War cavalryman, and a Lower Merion Township commissioner. The mansion he built in what's now Bala Cynwyd, known as Pencoyd, is today the site of what? Ring up a sale for b), a Saks Fifth Avenue store. Alas, its parent corporation declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy early this year, so it's closing at the end of April.

9. Which of the following is true? Sadly, it's d), Penn died penniless, having been guilty of bad management, etc. He had an unfortunate tendency to trust the wrong people. Penn's second wife, Hannah, outlived him and took charge of the colony for the remainder of her life. Penn himself died indigent in England. He actually tried to sell the colony back to the Crown to settle debts—twice.

10. For many years, a "gentleman's agreement" prohibited the erection of any building taller than the Alexander Milne Calder statue of Penn installed atop City Hall in 1894. What building breached that agreement? Give yourself a point for b), One Liberty Place, which was built in 1987 and clocks in at 945 feet. Seven of the 10 tallest buildings in our state are in Philly, with the rest in Pittsburgh. And there are no gentlemen these days.