

250 Years in the Making: How well do you know your city? Take our quiz and find out. (Who knows!? You just might learn something.)

Answer Key

1. A manufacturer of what is buried in the largest mausoleum in Laurel Hill Cemetery? *That would be d), saws; it's the tomb of Henry Disston, founder of the Keystone Saw Works. Disston came to America from England as a teenager, was apprenticed to a saw maker, and started his own company in 1840. Within 10 years, his saws were famous throughout the country and were said to rival those made in England. His company was responsible for the development of the Tacony neighborhood, where he owned 600 houses that he rented out to his employees.*

2. What major industrial plant was once situated in what's Fairmount Park today? *You get a slick point for c), an oil refinery—specifically, the Belmont Petroleum Refinery, built in 1866 between the Pennsylvania and Reading railroad lines and the Schuylkill River. It was producing two million gallons a year by 1868 but was bought by the city and closed down in 1870 because it stood just upstream from the Fairmount Water Works, which provided the city's drinking water—a surprising (!) early recognition of pollution danger.*

3. A trip out West inspired a New Jersey native to open a factory in Philly creating what? *Tip your brim to b), Stetson hats, founded here by John Stetson in 1865. The son of an Orange, New Jersey, milliner, Stetson was inspired by a journey to Pike's Peak but decidedly unimpressed by the headgear available to cowboys and travelers. He designed his waterproof felt hats to serve as "umbrellas," he said, for the noggin, providing shelter from rain, snow, wind, and sun.*

4. In 1872, German immigrant Albert Schoenhut opened a store in Kensington—the first outpost of what would become the largest U.S. manufacturer of what? *We're having fun with c), toys. Schoenhut, who'd been brought to the States by John Wanamaker to work at his fledgling department store, was a master craftsman of children's musical instruments, dolls, dollhouses and furniture, and circus figures. His company's rise coincided with a major change in the American economy, as children left the workforce and thus had more time for play.*

5. Local manufacturer Harrison Brothers introduced its "Town & Country" brand of what at Philly's 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Fairmount Park? *Hope you stirred up a), ready-mixed paint, which back then was a new product. First introduced by a company in Cleveland in 1867, it was helping to usher in the colorful Victorian style of architecture. Prior to that, folks looking to change the hue of their parlors and porches bought from "oils and colors" merchants or apothecaries. Harrison Brothers was bought by DuPont in 1917.*

6. Also introduced at that Centennial Exhibition was a powdered make-at-home version of what beverage that would become wildly popular? *Drink a toast to c), root beer—Hires Company's root beer, to be specific. Charles Elmer Hires's concoction was a version of a traditional Native American remedy believed to be a "health beverage" that protected against cholera. His recipe for the nonalcoholic refresher included roots, bark, flowers, berries, and herbs, and he served it free to Centennial visitors to promote his 25-cent powder packets, which stirred up five gallons of the stuff. He also advertised widely and heavily and included trading cards in the packets to help build the brand.*

7. In 1880, more than 40 percent of Philadelphia's paid workforce was employed in what industry? *You threaded the needle if you chose a), clothing and textile manufacturing. While Philly was a center of brickmaking early on thanks to healthy deposits of brick clay, it was slow to adopt steam-powered machinery, and its role in the trade gradually declined. And not even Philadelphians could eat that much bread or drink that much beer.*

8. What was the first flavor of ready-to-eat soup produced at what would become the Campbell's Soup Company in Camden? *Dip your spoon into b), beefsteak tomato, way back in 1895—and it came in a glass jar, not a can. It would be two more years before John T. Dorrance, the nephew of an early company president, perfected the process of condensing canned soup to remove much of the water, making it far cheaper to ship and store and setting the stage for one of the most successful food companies of all time. Trivia note: Those iconic red-and-white labels were inspired by the uniforms that Cornell U's football team donned for a game at Penn.*

9. Who were the Wobblies? *Did you pick (et) c), members of the Industrial Workers of the World, the labor union? Because that's the one. Philly's branch had a reputation as one of the biggest and brawniest offshoots of the IWW as well as its most racially inclusive. Wobblies believed that huge swaths of workers were being ground down by a tiny, hugely wealthy coterie. Gee, who could ever imagine such a thing?*

10. In 1900, a company founded on Arch Street by Gustave P. Gehring sent the first-ever what across the Delaware River from Philly to Camden? *C'mon, people, it's a), wireless radio-wave transmission. Gehring was the founder of the American Wireless Telephone and Telegraph Company, which would morph a century-plus later into AT&T Inc. Philadelphia was a locus of early radio development, home to firms including the Atwater Kent Company and Philco, major radio manufacturers.*