¡Viva Boricua! A Citizenship Quiz In Honor of Puerto Rico

Originally populated by the indigenous Taíno people, Puerto Rico was claimed in 1493 by Christopher Columbus for Spain during his second voyage (1493).

1) Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? (59)

Following a war in 1898, the United States acquired Puerto Rico along with other Spanish colonies.

2) Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s. (72)

Isabel González was a young Puerto Rican mother and civil rights activist who paved the way for Puerto Ricans to be given United States citizenship. (Learn more about Isabel González http://bit.ly/IsabelGonzalez)

3) What did Susan B. Anthony do? (77)

When Isabel González travelled from Puerto Rico to New York City to join her fiancé, the authorities detained her because she was pregnant, not married, and an "alien." The authorities claimed that she would become a "public charge" (a person who cannot support his/herself or his/her children).

4) Where is the Statue of Liberty?* (95)

Isabel González appealed to the highest US court. In her case (1904), Isabel said that all Puerto Ricans were US citizens and as citizens, they should not be treated as aliens. The highest U.S. court ruled that although Puerto Ricans were not “aliens”, it refused to say that Puerto Ricans were U.S. “citizens”.

5) What does the judicial branch do? (37)

6) What is the highest court in the United States? (38)

Isabel González wrote many letters to the New York Times newspaper and public officials in support of U.S. citizenship for all Puerto Ricans.

7) What are two rights of everyone living in the United States? (51)

8) What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy? (55)

In 1917, the U.S. Congress passed the Jones-Shafroth Act which conferred U.S. citizenship on all citizens of Puerto Rico, in part so that they could be drafted for military service in World War I.

9) Who makes federal laws? (16)

10) What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen? (53)

11) When must all men register for the Selective Service? (57)

12) Who was President during World War I? (79)

Arturo Schomburg was a Puerto Rican of African descent. He supported the PR independence movement and was a leader in the Harlem Renaissance (a forerunner of the civil rights movement). His collection of slave narratives became the basis of the NYPL Center for Research in Black Culture (1926–now)

13) What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves? (60)

14) What movement tried to end racial discrimination? (84)
Although Puerto Ricans are American citizens, they do not vote for the U.S. president & vice president.

15) In what month do we vote for President?* (27)

Although the people of Puerto Rico are American citizens, they do not pay federal income tax.

16) When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?* (56)

On June 11, 2017, the people of Puerto Rico voted overwhelmingly for statehood (97%), although the voter turnout was very low (22%). If PR becomes the 51st state, they will get representation in the Senate, The House of Representatives (and will be able to vote for President and Vice-President).

17) We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years? (19)

18) We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years? (22)

19) We elect a President for how many years? (26)

Puerto Rico is represented by a non-voting Resident Commissioner in the U.S. House of Representatives. The current Resident Commissioner is Jenniffer González.

20) Name your U.S. Representative. (23)

Ricardo Rosselló, the current Governor of Puerto Rico, supports statehood for Puerto Rico.

21) Who is the Governor of your state now? (43)

The capital of Puerto Rico is San Juan.

22) What is the capital of your state now? (44)

In early 2017, the Puerto Rican government-debt crisis posed serious problems for the government. Attempts to re-structure the debt are ongoing.

24) What is the economic system in the United States?* (11)

On Sept. 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria almost destroyed Puerto Rico. Disaster relief is ongoing, but San Juan’s mayor, Carmen Yulín Cruz, has challenged the federal government to do more.

****If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction? (N-400 Part 12:50)

In 2009, proud "Nuyorican" (Puerto Rican New Yorker), Lin-Manuel Miranda performed a rap about a Founding Father at the White House (https://youtu.be/WNFf7nMlGnE). This rap turned into a hit musical that swept the 2015-2016 musical awards. This musical is noted for its diversity, inclusion, and unity.

24) The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers. (67)

The capital of Puerto Rico is San Juan.

25) Name two national U.S. holidays. (100)