



B8: LGBTQ Knowledge Quiz

Type of Exercise: classroom/workshop activity,

Level: basic

Length of time: 15-20 minutes

Resources needed: none

Instructions: Use the quiz questions below, or adapt based on the objectives you want to address, such as LGBT history, definition of terms, or health care applications. You could go about using this quiz in different ways, such as:

- have participants "take" the quiz and share answers among themselves;
- read questions aloud to the group and let anyone answer;
- set it up as a way for students to explore how they would go about finding resources about LGBT information;
- set it up as a game show, with teams competing for the correct answers; or
- have the group take the quiz home and engage in conversation with others to see their response and further the dialogue about LGBTQ issues.

To deepen the conversation, you could have discussions about how other marginalized groups have similarly hidden histories and cultures. This is an opportunity to draw similarities and differences from other cultures and communities.

Sample Quiz Questions: General

- In 1998, a gay Wyoming college student was tortured and left to die because of his sexual orientation. What was his name? (Matthew Shepard)
- Which version of the Bible was named after a ruler who was known to have both male and female lovers? (The King James Bible)
- Which U.S. president wrote romantic letters to his college roommate, stating how much he missed their physical contact and sharing a bed? (Abraham Lincoln)
- When was the United State's first gay rights group founded? (1924, the short-lived Chicago Society for Human Rights)
- Name the gay African American man who organized the 1963 March on Washington, where Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his famous, "I have a dream" speech. (Bayard Rustin—he was also responsible for teaching King



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the nonviolence disobedience techniques that he promoted so effectively in the civil rights movement. Rustin was forced to stay behind the scenes and was ultimately forced out of the civil rights movement because the FBI used his homosexuality to blackmail King)

- What was the first state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation? (Wisconsin in 1982)
- When was the term "homosexual" first used in the research literature? (1869, by Hungarian psychologist Benkert. The term heterosexual did not appear in the literature until 1892.)
- What is DOMA? (The Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress in 1996 and signed into law by then President Bill Clinton. The bill says that if a same-sex couple is married in one location, another state does not have to recognize the marriage).
- Who was the first openly gay elected city official in the United States? (Harvey Milk, 1977, elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, assassinated by fellow supervisor, Dan White in 1978).
- What was the first country to legalize same-sex marriage? (Denmark, 1989)
- What was the first state in the United States to legalize same-sex marriage? (Massachusetts, 2004)
- What was the first federal law to include the term "sexual orientation?" (The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990)
- What was the first prime time TV show to feature an openly LGBT lead character? (Ellen, who came out as her character on TV, and personally, in 1997)
- Which gay Harlem Renaissance writer was honored as a commander in the French Legion of Honor? (James Baldwin)
- Which city was the first in the U.S. to provide benefits to domestic partners of its employees? (Berkeley, CA)
- Who founded the first church to serve the LGBT community? What is the name of this church? (Troy Perry founded the Metropolitan Community Church)
- Which gay American playwright won two Pulitzer Prizes and four New Drama Critics Circle Awards for best play? (Tennessee Williams)





- What openly bisexual man is considered to be the father of modern economics? (John Maynard Keynes born 1883-died 1946)
- Who spent his entire literary career writing and rewriting one famous book of poems? (Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass, a volume celebrating sexuality and homoerotic love)
- Who was the world-renowned sculptor and painter who also wrote poetry about his love for men? (Michelangelo)
- What gay mathematician helped the Allied troops win World War II? (Alan Turing who broke the German codes--when his homosexuality was revealed, he committed suicide)
- Who was the bisexual painter whose self-portraits expressed the suffering she felt in her life? (Frida Kahlo)
- What period of U.S. history gave rise to the first African American gay subculture? (The Harlem Renaissance)
- Name the first lady whose female companion lived with her at the White House. (Eleanor Roosevelt)
- What popular symbol of gay pride originated in the Nazi concentration camps? (the pink triangle--a symbol of gay men; lesbians were forced to wear black triangles)
- Who was the first professional athlete to come out while still actively competing in a sport? (Martina Navratilova)
- Which famous female novelist introduced herself as a boy named William when she started college? (Willa Cather)
- Which nineteenth century lesbian social worker was the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize? (Jane Addams, founder of the Hull House)
- In what month is "Gay Pride" celebrated in most parts of the U.S. and why? (June, to commemorate the Stonewall Riots in New York City that started on June 27, 1969, where patrons of a gay bar stood up to police harassment)

Sample Quiz Questions: Health Care Applications

- What document do same-sex couples who cannot marry need to be able to participate in each other's health care? (Power of attorney for health care)
- How many financial benefits are associated with marriage? (Over 1000, putting couples who cannot marry at significant disadvantage)



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- When written forms do not have any option for same-sex couples to indicate their relationships, that is a concept called...? (heterosexism—when institutional practices render same-sex identities and relationships invisible or undesirable)



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