

## Supreme Court of the United States Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Supreme Court of the United States trivia explores the people, cases, and customs behind the tribunal established in 1789 as the highest judicial authority in the federal system. From famous rulings and memorable dissents to surprising courtroom details, it offers a family-friendly way to learn how the Court has influenced American history and public life.

### HARD SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES TRIVIA

1. Which statute initially fixed the Supreme Court at six justices?

Answer: The Judiciary Act of 1789.

2. In what year did Congress first raise the Supreme Court's membership from six to seven?

Answer: 1807.

3. The Supreme Court reached nine justices for the first time in which year?

Answer: 1837.

4. During the Civil War era, Congress expanded the Court to ten justices in what year?

Answer: 1863.

5. Which law sought to shrink the Supreme Court to seven seats by attrition rather than immediate removal?

Answer: The Judicial Circuits Act of 1866.

6. What year is attached to the law that fixed the Supreme Court at its modern total of nine justices?

Answer: 1869.

7. Who became the first Supreme Court nominee rejected by the Senate for Chief Justice, in 1795?

Answer: John Rutledge.

8. Which justice, appointed in 1916, became the first Jewish member of the Supreme Court?

Answer: Louis Brandeis.

9. Name the justice who, in 1967, became the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court.?

Answer: Thurgood Marshall.

10. Which Chief Justice's tenure stretched from 1801 to 1835?

Answer: John Marshall.

11. Under Article III, what kind of Supreme Court authority applies in cases affecting ambassadors and disputes involving states?

Answer: Original jurisdiction.

12. Which 1869 decision confirmed that Congress may make exceptions to the Supreme Court's

appellate jurisdiction?

Answer: Ex parte McCardle.

13. The famous phrase "the switch in time" is tied to West Coast Hotel v. Parrish in what year?

Answer: 1937.

14. Who proposed adding justices to the Supreme Court in 1937?

Answer: Franklin D. Roosevelt.

#### FUNNY SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES TRIVIA

1. Which justice pulled off the ultimate "sum" flex by serving as both U.S. president and Chief Justice?

Answer: William Howard Taft

2. A nervous lawyer began, "This is the first case I have ever argued." Which Chief Justice coolly answered, "That's all right"?

Answer: Harlan Fiske Stone

3. What souvenir item does the Supreme Court keep at counsel table for arguing lawyers to use?

Answer: Quill pens

4. Which justice blasted a ruling with the culinary-grade insult "pure applesauce"?

Answer: Antonin Scalia

5. Which justice has noted that oral arguments can wander into detailed talk about hot dogs, video games, or goldfish?

Answer: Elena Kagan

6. When the courtroom crier says "Oyez," what does that Anglo-French word mean in plain English?

Answer: Hear ye

7. Whose office sign basically pre-rejected everyone with the words "Cert. denied"?

Answer: Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

8. Which justice made history as the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court?

Answer: Sandra Day O'Connor

9. In what year did Sandra Day O'Connor join the Supreme Court?

Answer: 1981

10. Which pair of justices became famous for being close friends despite major ideological differences?

Answer: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia

11. What was the title of the opera inspired by Justices Scalia and Ginsburg?

Answer: Scalia/Ginsburg

12. Which Supreme Court justice had already logged time as an NFL player before joining the bench?

Answer: Byron White

13. Who is remembered for the line "I know it when I see it" from a 1964 obscenity case?

Answer: Potter Stewart

#### FUN SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES TRIVIA

1. Which architect got the ultimate assignment of designing the Supreme Court Building?

Answer: Cass Gilbert designed the Supreme Court Building.

2. What four-word message is carved across the west front of the Supreme Court Building?

Answer: The inscription is "Equal Justice Under Law."

3. If you walk around to the east front, what inscription greets you there?

Answer: The east front says "Justice the Guardian of Liberty."

4. Before the Supreme Court got its own building, where did it meet?

Answer: It met in the U.S. Capitol.

5. For many years inside the Capitol, which room served as the Supreme Court's home base?

Answer: The Court occupied the Old Senate Chamber.

6. True or false: The Supreme Court hears thousands of cases every term.?

Answer: False

7. What dramatic feature do the justices pass through as they enter the bench together?

Answer: They enter through red velvet curtains.

8. When the Marshal opens Court, what old-school cry rings out three times?

Answer: "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!"

9. Which law enforcement unit is specifically assigned to the Supreme Court?

Answer: The Supreme Court Police.

10. The Supreme Court cafeteria has a nickname that sounds like a legal joke. What is it?

Answer: It is nicknamed the "Lowest Court in the Land."

11. How many marble columns line the Great Hall of the Supreme Court Building?

Answer: The Great Hall is lined with 24 marble columns.

12. Look up in the courtroom and you'll see a decorative band featuring whom or what?

Answer: A frieze showing historic lawgivers.

13. Name one biblical figure included among the historic lawgivers shown in the courtroom frieze.?

Answer: Moses appears in the courtroom frieze.

#### SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which Supreme Court case established judicial review in 1803?

Answer: Marbury v. Madison

2. In what year was Brown v. Board of Education decided?

Answer: 1954

3. Which Supreme Court case ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional?

Answer: Brown v. Board of Education

4. Roe v. Wade was decided in which year?

Answer: 1973

5. What year goes with the Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges?

Answer: 2015

6. Obergefell v. Hodges recognized a constitutional right to what?

Answer: same-sex marriage

7. Which year saw the decision in Miranda v. Arizona?

Answer: 1966

8. When police on TV start reading a familiar warning, those are often called what because of a Supreme Court case?

Answer: Miranda rights

9. Gideon v. Wainwright was decided in what year?

Answer: 1963

10. Gideon v. Wainwright said that defendants who cannot afford a lawyer have what in felony cases?

Answer: right to counsel

11. Tinker v. Des Moines reached the Supreme Court in which year?

Answer: 1969

12. The students in Tinker v. Des Moines wore armbands to protest which war?

Answer: the Vietnam War

#### EASY SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES TRIVIA

1. What is the Supreme Court in the federal judiciary of the United States?

Answer: It is the highest court in the federal judiciary of the United States.

2. In what city does the Supreme Court meet?

Answer: Washington, D.C.

3. How many justices currently serve on the Supreme Court?

Answer: Nine justices.

4. What is the title of the one justice who leads the Supreme Court?

Answer: Chief Justice of the United States.

5. Which part of the U.S. Constitution established the Supreme Court?

Answer: Article III of the U.S. Constitution.

6. What year did the Supreme Court hold its first session?

Answer: 1790.

7. Who was the first Chief Justice of the United States?

Answer: John Jay.

8. Who became Chief Justice in 2005?

Answer: John Roberts.

9. The Supreme Court Building opened in what year?

Answer: 1935.

10. What street name appears in the Supreme Court's address, 1 First Street NE?

Answer: First Street.

11. What is the Supreme Court's most famous chamber called?

Answer: The Courtroom.

12. During what months does the Supreme Court usually hear oral arguments?

Answer: From October through April.

13. Near the end of its term, the Supreme Court usually releases many opinions in which month?

Answer: June.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/supreme-court-of-the-united-states>