March Trivia Answers

1. **How many state capitals are <u>not</u> their most populous city?**

   Extra credit: How many of the capitals that are not the largest cities can you name?

   Answer: 33. Maine is, of course one of the 33; Augusta is much smaller than Portland, as are the capitals of three other New England states: New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Vermont.

   Here are several more, in no particular order: Albany, NY; Springfield, IL; Harrisburg, PA; Sacramento, CA. The other Portland in Oregon is also the largest city in its state but not its capital.

   I was surprised that only 17 states' capitals are their largest city, and that Connecticut is one of them (Bridgeport has a higher population than Hartford). Here's a link to a list of all 50 states' information: https://geographyhost.com/list-of-us-states-their-capitals-and-largest-cities/

2. **Can you name five of the ten U.S. cities with the largest populations?**

   Answer: Based on 2024 Census data:

- New York City (~8.5 million)
- Los Angeles (~4.9 million)
- Chicago (~2.7 million)
- Houston (~2.4 million)

- Phoenix (~1.7 million)
- Philadelphia (~1.6 million)
- San Antonio (~1.5 million)
- San Diego (~1.4 million)
- Dallas (~1.3 million)
- Jacksonville (~1 million).

There are no New England states on the list, which is just fine with me! A note related to the first question: Phoenix is the most populous state capital city in the nation.

3. **Which state has the most lakes?**

   Answer: Alaska, with three million lakes larger than five acres, takes the gold medal. It has more than 40% of all the lakes in the United States! The silver medal, with 120,000 lakes, goes to Kansas (a huge surprise to me, even though I've driven across Kansas a couple of times). Though Minnesota's state motto is Land of 10,000 Lakes, it has more than 14,000 lakes and shares the bronze medal with Wisconsin, close enough numbers to be a tie in my book. Maine has 2,677 lakes. Here's a link to more information: https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/lakes-by-state

4. **Which state grows the most peaches?**

   Answer: California (not Georgia). California took the gold medal for peaches in 2023 with over 215,000 tons. Georgia is famous for the flavor of its peaches, but its largest crop is not peaches, it's blueberries – more than 50,000 tons in 2023. Washington State and Oregon take the gold and silver medals for blueberry crops.

5. **What state is the largest producer of wild blueberries in the world?**

   Answer: Maine. Maine produced more than 100,000,000 pounds of wild blueberries in 2014, 25% of the total North American wild blueberry crop. 85% of the crop is produced in Washington County, which has the perfect conditions for the blues: acidic, glacial, sandy soil, and a cool, foggy climate. About 38,000 acres of wild blueberries are managed by about 500 farmers. Most of the crop is frozen; sales of fresh wild blueberries are less than 10% of the crop.

   You can learn more at: https://extension.umaine.edu/blueberries/



6. **What is the easternmost state in the United States?**

   Answer: Alaska, based on a technicality**.** Alaska's Semisopochnoi Island in the Aleutian Islands crosses the 180th meridian, which technically puts it on the very eastern edge of the eastern hemisphere. It is simultaneously the easternmost and westernmost point of the United States! If you think Downeast Maine is isolated, this spot is even more so: uninhabited, has volcanoes, and is a nesting area for maritime birds.

This is a crazy example of how trivial trivia can be! For all practical purposes, the answer is, of course, Maine! I definitely needed to verify this one, and you can too!

https://science.nasa.gov/earth/earth-observatory/semisopochnoi-island-alaska-48154/

