



U.S. Beer History Trivia

ANSWERS

1. Prohibition made alcohol illegal nationwide starting in 1920. How many years did it last?

Answer: 13 years. Prohibition went into effect at midnight on January 17, 1920, and came to an end in 1933 with the ratification of the 21st Amendment.

2. Before Prohibition, approximately how many breweries were operating in the United States — closer to 500, 1,000, or 1,500?

Answer: About 1,300. Of the more than 1,300 brewers in operation in 1915, no more than 100 survived Prohibition.

3. Sierra Nevada, one of America's most iconic craft breweries, released its flagship Pale Ale in what decade?

Answer: Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, which began as its founder's home brew experiment, released its flagship pale ale in 1980.

4. True or false: Homebrewing was illegal in the United States until President Jimmy Carter signed a law legalizing it in 1978.



Answer: True. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill legalizing homebrewing again — unlocking a wave of experimentation that helped shape the modern craft beer scene. Many of today's most influential breweries started in home kitchens and garages.

5. What city is home to the Great American Beer Festival, the largest ticketed beer festival in the country?

Answer: Denver, Colorado. The Great American Beer Festival is an annual beer festival hosted by the Brewers Association, held in Denver, Colorado. Established in 1982, it is the largest ticketed beer festival in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world.

6. What do Anheuser-Busch and Yuengling have in common from the Prohibition era?

Answer: They both made ice cream to stay afloat. Anheuser-Busch and Yuengling made other stuff — ice cream, in fact. You can still buy Yuengling ice cream on their website.

7. What is the oldest operating brewery in the United States, and what state is it in?

Answer: D.G. Yuengling & Son, commonly called Yuengling, is the oldest operating brewing company in the United States, having been established in 1829 by David Yuengling. Headquartered in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, it is currently the largest American-owned brewery.

8. Name the San Francisco brewery that is considered the birthplace of the modern American craft beer movement.

Answer: Anchor Brewing in San Francisco. A young entrepreneur, Fritz Maytag, purchased the failing brewery in 1965 and revived its iconic Anchor Steam brand.



9. (For the beer nerds) The term “craft beer” wasn't always the standard – what term did the industry use before it?

Answer: Microbrewery / microbrew. "Microbrewery" gave way to "craft brewery" in an official sense in 1996, when the leading American microbrewers group renamed its meeting the Craft Brewers Conference.

10. (For the beer nerds) At the lowest point of American brewing – in the early 1980s, before the craft beer revival – roughly how many breweries were left in the entire country?

Answer: Fewer than 100. There were just 80 active breweries in 1983, and fewer than 50 brewing companies in 1984.