ANSWERS TO
NEW MEXICO TRIVIA CONTEST

1. On what date was New Mexico admitted to the Union as a state? A: January 6, 1912.

2. What is the name of the treaty by which Mexico ceded the area including New Mexico to the United States? A: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

3. In what year was New Mexico’s capital city, Santa Fe, founded? A: 1610.

4. What is the name of the oldest continuously used public building constructed by European settlers in the United State, located on the north side of the Santa Fe Plaza? A: Palace of the Governors.

5. What is New Mexico’s official nickname? A: Land of Enchantment.

6. What is New Mexico’s state bird? A: Greater Roadrunner (Geococcyx californianus).

7. The symbol in the center of New Mexico’s flag is the sacred sun symbol from what New Mexico pueblo? A: Zia.

8. What Civil War battle fought in New Mexico is often referred to as “The Gettysburg of the West”? A: Battle of Glorieta Pass.


10. What future (5 star) General of the Army spent part of his youth in New Mexico when his father was post commander at Fort Selden? A: Douglas MacArthur.

11. Why is Albuquerque nicknamed “The Duke City”? A: It was named in honor of Francisco Fernández de la Cueva, 10th Duke of Alburquerque and Viceroy of New Spain. (The first “r” is not a typo. That is the proper spelling of the duke’s title, but the first “r” was later dropped from, the city’s name.)

12. What is the distance from the lower terminal to the upper terminal of the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway? A: 2.7 miles or 4.3 km. (It is the longest aerial tramway in the Americas and includes the third longest single span in the world.)

13. Why is the restaurant on Sandia Peak named “Ten 3”? A: It is located approximately 10,300 feet above sea level.

14. What is New Mexico’s official state question? A: “Red or green?” (This refers to the type of chile to be served with your meal.)

15. What is the official answer? A: Either “Christmas” or “red and green” (but either “red” or “green” is fine, depending on the diner’s taste.)

16. What 13-mile-wide New Mexico geographic feature, now a national preserve, was formed by a massive volcanic explosion approximately 1.25 million years ago? A: The Valles Caldera.

17. On what date did the Pueblo Revolt, which drove the Spanish out of New Mexico for twelve years, begin? A: August 10, 1680.


19. Where is Billy the Kid’s grave officially recorded? A: Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

20. In what famous “war” did Billy the Kid play a prominent role? A: The Lincoln County Cattle War.

21. What national monument on the outskirts of Albuquerque is home to thousands of Native American designs and symbols carved into volcanic rock, and to three extinct volcanos that can be seen on the city’s western horizon? A: Petroglyph National Monument.


23. What are New Mexico’s state vegetables? A: Chile and pinto beans.

24. What is New Mexico’s state cookie? A: The bizcochito.

25. In what year was the NTC last held in Albuquerque? A: 1998.