BONUS DECADE
THE 1940s



The decade that shaped the world Baby Boomers inherited

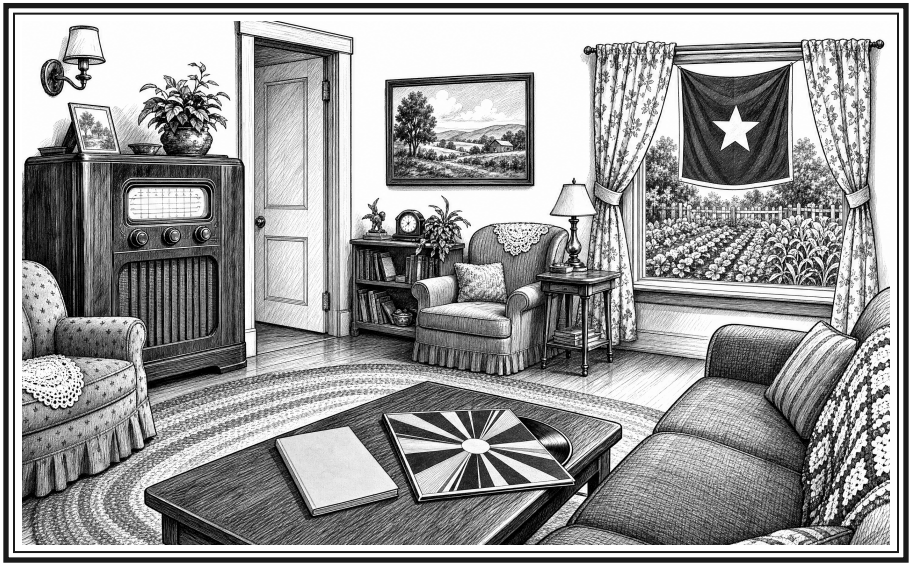
Before your first memories, this was the world being built for you: the decade that shaped everything the Baby Boom grew up inside. Step into the years that came before your own.

ARTHUR JASPER BOOKS

1940s

The Fabulous Forties

The decade of ration books, radio plays, and war bonds — when Frank Sinatra and Dinah Shore ruled the airwaves, Casablanca lit up the screen, and a weary world learned to hope again.



Before your first memories, this was the world being built for you: the decade that shaped everything the Baby Boom grew up inside. It was the 1940s — war bonds and V-E Day celebrations, Bob Hope on the radio and Casablanca on the silver screen, ration books, newsreels, and the quiet pride of a generation that knew hardship and rose to meet it. Ready to test your knowledge of the Fabulous Forties? Let's find out how much you know!

The 1940s answers begin on page 36.

◆ WARM-UP ◆

Mixed types — each question is labeled. Start easy, build confidence!

Category	Type	Difficulty
Music	**Multiple Choice**	**Easy**

☐ **A)** What style of music launched Frank Sinatra to stardom in the 1940s?

A) Country western

B) Rhythm and blues

C) Rock and roll

D) Big band

Category	Type	Difficulty
History	**True or False**	**Easy**

☐ **B)** True or False: World War II ended in 1943, before the decade was half over.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Category	Type	Difficulty
Food & Culture	**Fill in the Blank**	**Easy**

☐ **C)** During World War II, plots called _____ _____ became a popular way for American civilians to support the war effort by growing their own food.

Your Answer: _____

Category	Type	Difficulty
Daily Life	**Who/What Am I?**	**Easy**

☐ **D)** **Clue 1:** I was a form of affordable entertainment that boomed during the 1940s.

Clue 2: Parents and civic groups began worrying I was a bad influence on children.

Clue 3: Censorship campaigns targeting me started gaining steam in that same decade.

Clue 4: Superheroes were among my most popular characters.

Clue 5: By 1954, an industry code was created to regulate my content.

Your Answer: _____

Warm-up Over

◆ THE FABULOUS FORTIES ◆

Scoring starts from here onwards. Every question can earn you points. Good luck!

Category	Type	Difficulty
Politics	**True or False**	**Easy**

☐ **1)** True or False: The Marshall Plan sent billions of dollars in U.S. aid to rebuild postwar Western Europe.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Music	**Multiple Choice**	**Medium**

☐ **2)** Which bandleader led an Army Air Forces band that performed for Allied troops during World War II?

A) Harry James

B) Tommy Dorsey

C) Glenn Miller

D) Artie Shaw

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**Who/What Am I?**	**Easy**

☐ **3)** **Clue 1:** I traded my professional uniform for a military one in the 1940s.

Clue 2: I was known for my extraordinary batting eye and swing.

Clue 3: I played my entire major-league career for one American League team in New England.

Clue 4: In 1941, I finished with a .406 batting average — the last American or National League player to top .400 while qualifying for the batting title.

Clue 5: I wore number 9 for the Boston Red Sox.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Fill in the Blank**	**Medium**

☐ **4)** The _____ _____ _____ Show teamed a crooner with a slapstick comic on radio in 1949.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Daily Life	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **5)** After World War II, Levittown, a massive housing development on Long Island, became a symbol of American suburban life. In 1949, what did its basic ranch house cost?

A) $4,990

B) $7,990

C) $12,990

D) $19,990

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**Multiple Choice**	**Easy**

☐ **6)** The Chicago Cubs played their 1945 World Series home games at which ballpark?

A) Wrigley Field

B) Fenway Park

C) Yankee Stadium

D) Ebbets Field

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Fill in the Blank**	**Medium**

☐ **7)** The CBS show _____ _____ _____ starred Eve Arden as a witty high school English teacher on radio from 1948 and later on TV.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Food & Culture	**Who/What Am I?**	**Easy**

☐ **8)** **Clue 1:** I'm a sweet treat that first appeared during the 1940s.

Clue 2: I come in many colors, and each one tastes the same.

Clue 3: My colorful candy shell surrounds a chocolate center.

Clue 4: My name uses the same letter twice, with an ampersand in between.

Clue 5: My famous slogan says I melt in your mouth, not in your hand.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Politics	**Fill in the Blank**	**Medium**

☐ **9)** The wartime factory boom that made America the "_____ of democracy" finally ended the Great Depression.

Your Answer: _____

____ **/ 2 pts**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**True or False**	**Hard**

☐ **10)** True or False: Cecil B. DeMille stopped hosting Lux Radio Theatre in 1945 after refusing to pay a union fee.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

____ **/ 3 pts**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Politics	**Fill in the Blank**	**Easy**

☐ **11)** In 1940, FDR broke tradition by being elected to an unprecedented _____ term as president.

Your Answer: _____

____ **/ 1 pt**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Science & Tech	**Fill in the Blank**	**Medium**

☐ **12)** In the 1940s, USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) researchers developed a pressurized _____ spray can of insecticide to protect troops.

Your Answer: _____

____ **/ 2 pts**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Politics	**Who/What Am I?**	**Easy**

☐ **13)** **Clue 1:** I served as a U.S. Senator from Missouri before rising to higher office.

Clue 2: I first became president when my predecessor died.

Clue 3: I signed an executive order directing the desegregation of the U.S. military.

Clue 4: My famous desk sign read "The Buck Stops Here."

Clue 5: A famous photograph shows me grinning triumphantly while holding up a newspaper whose headline wrongly declared my opponent the winner of the 1948 presidential election.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**Multiple Choice**	**Medium**

☐ **14)** Which golfer won both the U.S. Open and PGA Championship in 1948?

A) Ben Hogan

B) Byron Nelson

C) Sam Snead

D) Bobby Jones

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **15)** In the 1946 film It's a Wonderful Life, which actor played Clarence, George Bailey's guardian angel?

A) Thomas Mitchell

B) Henry Travers

C) Lionel Barrymore

D) Frank Faylen

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
History	**Fill in the Blank**	**Easy**

☐ **16)** On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise military attack on the U.S. naval base at _____ _____ in Hawaii.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Politics	**Multiple Choice**	**Medium**

☐ **17)** Who formally proclaimed the creation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948?

A) David Ben-Gurion

B) Golda Meir

C) Moshe Dayan

D) Chaim Weizmann

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
History	**Multiple Choice**	**Easy**

☐ **18)** What name describes the long political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union that took shape in the late 1940s?

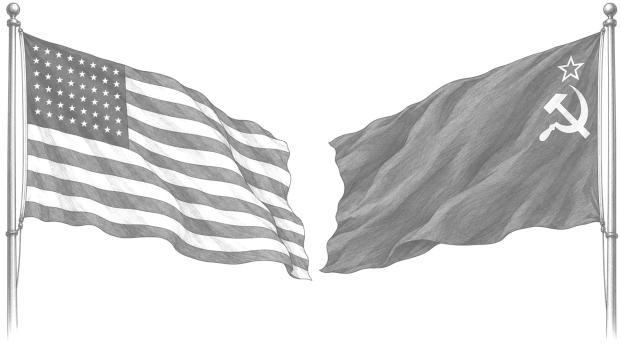
A) The Space Race

B) The Cold War

C) The Arms Race

D) The Korean Conflict

____ / 1 pt



Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**True or False**	**Medium**

☐ **19)** True or False: Scrabble was an overnight sensation the moment it reached store shelves in the late 1940s.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Science & Tech	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **20)** Which semiconductor material was used in the first working transistor demonstrated at Bell Laboratories in 1947?

A) Silicon

B) Selenium

C) Germanium

D) Gallium arsenide

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
History 	**Who/What Am I?** ?	**Easy**

☐ **21)** **Clue 1:** I was a British statesman who also wrote many books.

Clue 2: I led a great nation through its most perilous years in the twentieth century.

Clue 3: My rousing speeches in 1940 urged my countrymen never to surrender.

Clue 4: I served as British Prime Minister during World War II.

Clue 5: On June 4, 1940, I spoke of fighting on the beaches, in the fields and in the streets.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**True or False**	**Medium**

☐ **22)** True or False: Britain was still rationing food when London hosted the Summer Olympics in 1948.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

____ **/ 2 pts**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Multiple Choice**	**Easy**

☐ **23)** On his 1940s radio program, Jack Benny repeatedly claimed to be what age?

A) 29

B) 39

C) 49

D) 59

____ **/ 1 pt**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Multiple Choice**	**Medium**

☐ **24)** In which movie did Bing Crosby first sing Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" on-screen?

A) Top Hat

B) Easter Parade

C) Holiday Inn

D) White Christmas

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **25)** Which horse won the 1948 Triple Crown, the last to do so for 25 years?

A) Assault

B) Citation

C) Whirlaway

D) Count Fleet

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Music	**Fill in the Blank**	**Easy**

☐ **26)** The early 1940s were still the golden age of _____, the big band jazz style.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Multiple Choice**	**Medium**

☐ **27)** Which famous Las Vegas casino did mobster Bugsy Siegel open on December 26, 1946?

A) The Sahara

B) The Tropicana

C) The Sands

D) The Flamingo

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Food & Culture	**Who/What Am I?**	**Easy**

☐ **28)** **Clue 1:** I started as a humble drive-in restaurant in sunny Southern California.

Clue 2: Two brothers with the same last name dreamed me up in 1940.

Clue 3: A businessman named Ray Kroc later helped turn me into a nationwide sensation.

Clue 4: My golden arches became one of the most famous symbols in the world.

Clue 5: I'm the fast-food chain that started in San Bernardino, California.

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Music	**True or False**	**Hard**

☐ **29)** True or False: Duke Ellington, a star of Harlem's Cotton Club, first played his 1943 suite "Black, Brown and Beige" there.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

____ **/ 3 pts**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Politics	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **30)** In what year did Winston Churchill's first term as British Prime Minister come to an end?

A) 1943

B) 1945

C) 1947

D) 1950

____ **/ 3 pts**

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **31)** The Wings Over Jordan Choir broke barriers on CBS radio in the 1940s. In what city was the choir founded?

A) Chicago

B) Nashville

C) Cleveland

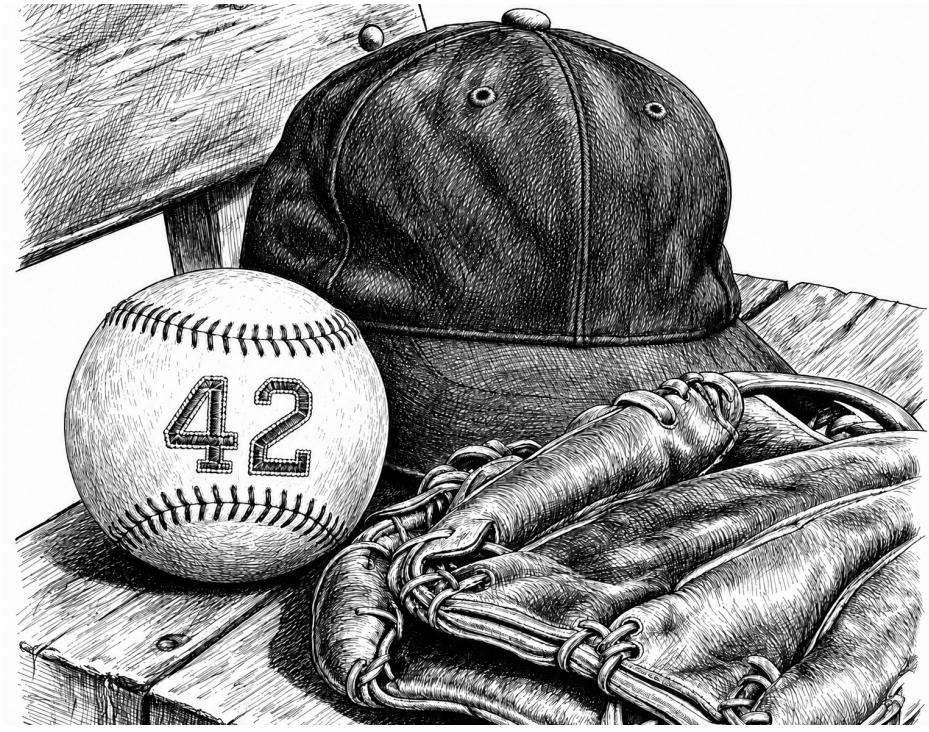
D) Detroit

____ / 3 pts



◆ VISUAL ROUND ◆

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**Visual Round**	**Easy**

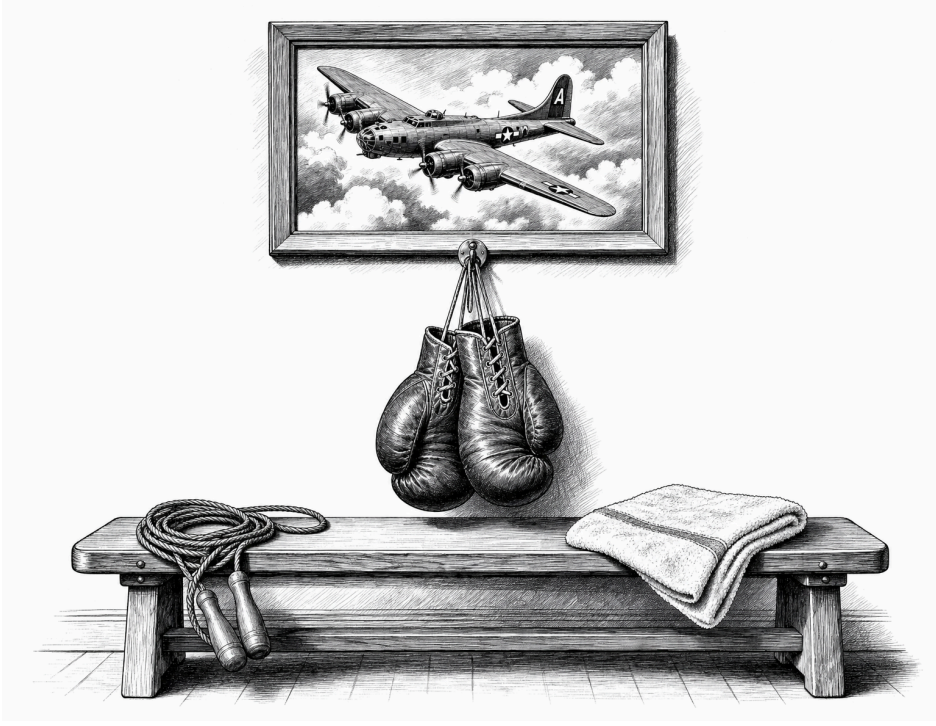


☐ **32)** Which Brooklyn Dodgers player wore the number on this ball in the 1940s?

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

Category	Type	Difficulty
Sports	**Visual Round**	**Hard**

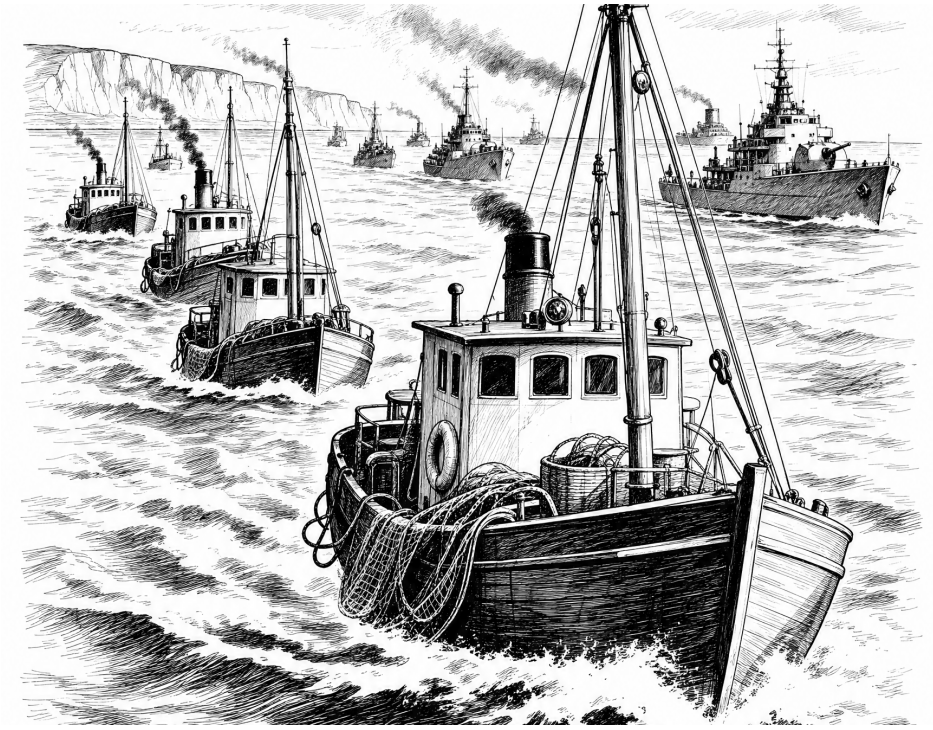


☐ **33)** This picture is a clue to the nickname of an American sports star of the 1940s. Who was he?

Your Answer: _____

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
History	**Visual Round**	**Medium**



☐ **34)** This image depicts a famous scene from 1940. Can you identify the event?

Your Answer: _____

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
History	**Visual Round**	**Easy**



☐ **35)** Which World War II event does this 1944 scene suggest?

Your Answer: _____

____ / 1 pt

◆ MATCH-UP ROUND ◆

Draw a line from each item on the left to its match on the right.

Category	Type	Difficulty
Science & Tech	**Match-Up**	**Medium**

☐ **36)** Match each WWII-era technology with its intended task.

1. Radar	**A)** Treating bacterial infections
2. ENIAC computer	**B)** Code-breaking
3. Penicillin mass production	**C)** Calculating artillery firing tables
4. Colossus computer	**D)** Detecting aircraft and ships

____ / 2 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Food & Culture	**Match-Up**	**Easy**

☐ **37)** Match each 1940s breakthrough or trend with what it's best known for.

1. Nylon	**A)** Dance halls and swing
2. USO shows	**B)** Entertaining the troops
3. Ration books	**C)** Limiting civilian purchases
4. Big band music	**D)** Parachutes — and stockings

____ / 1 pt

BONUS FACT

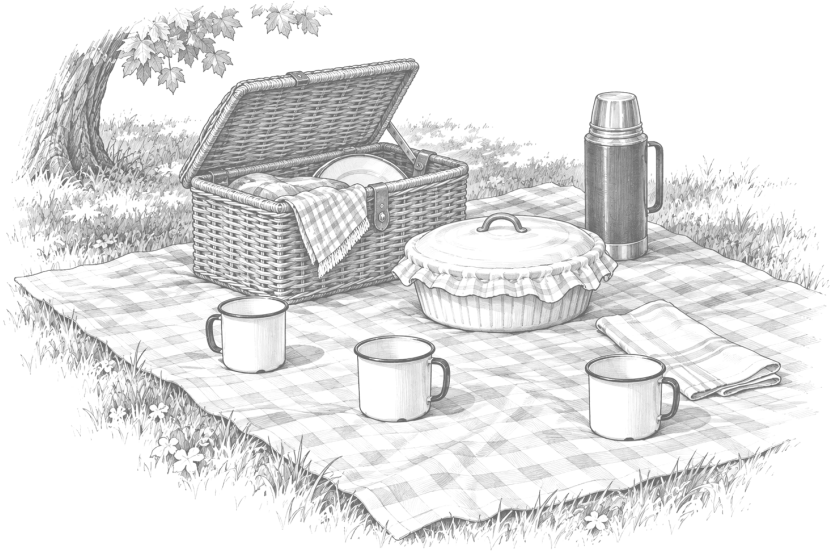
The Flamingo — the Las Vegas casino opened in 1946 by mobster Bugsy Siegel — was first planned by Billy Wilkerson, founder of The Hollywood Reporter, before Siegel took over.

Category	Type	Difficulty
Food & Culture	**Match-Up**	**Easy**

☐ **38)** Match these classic American treats and foods to the regions or cities they're most associated with!

1. Sponge Candy	**A)** New Orleans
2. Deep-Dish Pizza	**B)** Buffalo, NY
3. Creamy Clam Chowder	**C)** Chicago
4. Pralines	**D)** Boston

____ / 1 pt

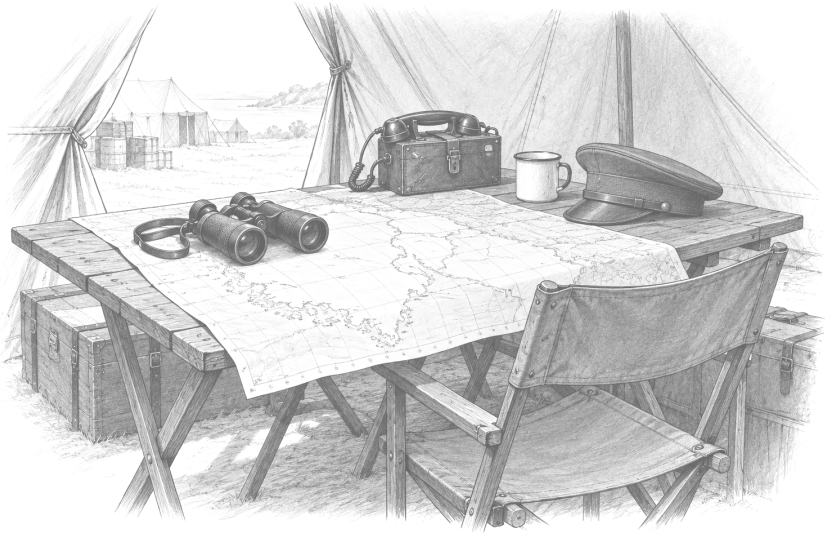


Category	Type	Difficulty
History	**Match-Up**	**Easy**

☐ **39)** Match each American World War II commander to his quotation, nickname, or role.

1. Douglas MacArthur	**A)** Pacific Fleet commander
2. Dwight D. Eisenhower	**B)** “Old Blood and Guts”
3. Chester Nimitz	**C)** “I shall return”
4. George S. Patton	**D)** Nicknamed “Ike”

____ / 1 pt



◆ DECADE CHALLENGE ◆

The toughest questions of the Forties. How many can you get?

Category	Type	Difficulty
History 	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **40)** In 1948, President Truman surprised the world by defeating Thomas Dewey in the presidential election. Which newspaper wrongly ran the headline "Dewey Defeats Truman"?

A) Chicago Daily Tribune

B) Washington Post

C) Chicago Daily News

D) New York Times

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Entertainment	**True or False**	**Hard**

☐ **41)** True or False: While The Shadow was thrilling 1940s radio audiences, Orson Welles was the voice of its mystery hero, Lamont Cranston.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Daily Life	**Fill in the Blank**	**Hard**

☐ **42)** _____ _____ photographed Ella Watson in American Gothic, Washington, D.C. in 1942, and later directed Shaft.

Your Answer: ----------

____ / 3 pts

Category	Type	Difficulty
Music	**Multiple Choice**	**Hard**

☐ **43)** Which famous songwriter wrote the 1940 Broadway musical ‘Louisiana Purchase’?

A) Cole Porter

B) Irving Berlin

C) George Gershwin

D) Richard Rodgers

____ / 3 pts



ANSWERS — THE FABULOUS FORTIES

Ordered by question number. Each answer includes a Did You Know? fact.

Warm-up Questions

A. Big band

Sinatra's early fans were called bobby-soxers, named after the short socks that were popular with teenage girls in the 1940s.

B. False

By 1945, more than 12 million Americans were serving in the armed forces — the largest mobilization in U.S. history.

C. Victory Gardens

By 1944, about 20 million Victory Gardens were growing roughly 40% of fresh vegetables consumed in the United States.

D. Comic Books

Also accept: comics; the comic book

Captain America's first comic, cover-dated March 1941, showed the hero punching Hitler. The United States had not yet entered World War II.

Scored Questions

1. True

Secretary of State George C. Marshall first outlined the plan in a speech at Harvard University on June 5, 1947.

2. Glenn Miller

Glenn Miller's Army Air Forces Band made more than 300 personal appearances and 500 radio broadcasts during its wartime service. It brought a little music from home to troops far away.

3. Ted Williams

Also accept: The Splendid Splinter

Williams also served as a fighter pilot during the Korean War, flying combat missions before returning to baseball once again.

4. Martin and Lewis

Also accept: Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis

Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis first teamed up in July 1946 at Atlantic City's 500 Club.

5. $7,990

Levitt's crews broke home-building into about two dozen assembly-line steps — finishing dozens of houses a day at the peak.

6. Wrigley Field

Wrigley Field's famous ivy was planted along the outfield wall in 1937.

7. Our Miss Brooks

At the 1954 Emmy Awards, Eve Arden was named best female star of a regular series for playing the quick-witted Miss Brooks.

8. M&M's

The candy was originally sold in cardboard tubes before the familiar brown bag packaging was introduced.

9. Arsenal

American factories produced about 300,000 aircraft and 86,000 tanks during WWII, more than Germany and Japan combined.

10. True

A $1 union assessment funded a political campaign DeMille opposed. Refusing to pay cost him his place as host of Lux Radio Theatre.

11. Third

Roosevelt's presidential library opened in 1941, while he was still in office. He used its private study to conduct government business and even broadcast some of his radio "Fireside Chats" from there.

12. Aerosol

Soldiers called those early aerosol cans "bug bombs." They used them to fight off mosquitoes while serving in the Pacific.

13. Harry S. Truman

The back of Truman's famous desk sign carried another message: "I'm From Missouri."

14. Ben Hogan

Hogan was badly injured in a car crash in 1949. He returned to win the U.S. Open in 1950.

15. Henry Travers

Henry Travers received an Academy Award nomination for his supporting performance in the 1942 film Mrs. Miniver.

16. Pearl Harbor

Roosevelt's first draft called December 7 a date that would live in "world history." He crossed those words out and chose "infamy" instead.

17. David Ben-Gurion

Ben-Gurion read the declaration at the Tel Aviv Museum in a Friday afternoon ceremony timed to end before the Sabbath. He became Israel's first prime minister.

18. The Cold War

Journalist Walter Lippmann used The Cold War as the title of a 1947 book criticizing U.S. foreign policy.

19. False

Alfred Mosher Butts called his early word game Lexiko, then Criss Cross Words. The name Scrabble arrived in 1948, when James Brunot helped turn it into the game we know today.

20. Germanium

John Bardeen shared the 1956 Nobel Prize for the transistor, then won again in 1972 for explaining superconductivity — how some materials carry electricity without resistance when chilled enough.

21. Winston Churchill

Churchill's June 4 speech was not broadcast live. A BBC announcer read excerpts on the radio, and Churchill made the familiar recording himself after the war.

22. True

The 1940 Olympics had been awarded to Tokyo, but Japan gave up hosting duties as the war in Asia grew worse.

23. 39

The Jack Benny Program began airing on television in 1950. Its radio and television versions overlapped for several years.

24. Holiday Inn

Radio listeners heard Crosby sing "White Christmas" on Christmas night in 1941, months before Holiday Inn reached movie theaters.

25. Citation

Citation was the first racehorse to win a million dollars in prize money.

26. Swing

Glenn Miller played the trombone as well as leading the band. In 1942, at the height of his fame, he joined the Army.

27. The Flamingo

The Flamingo's opening flopped: it closed within weeks and reopened in March 1947.

28. McDonald's

The 1940 drive-in had carhops and a large menu. In 1948, the brothers switched to self-service and just nine items, with hamburgers priced at 15 cents.

29. False

The Cotton Club closed in 1940. As a teenager, Ellington showed promise as a visual artist and was offered a scholarship to Pratt Institute. He chose music instead.

30. 1945

Churchill won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953, during his second spell as prime minister. His wartime speeches and many books made him a celebrated writer as well as a political leader.

31. Cleveland

A 1942 broadcast of the choir was added to the Library of Congress's National Recording Registry in 2007.

32. Jackie Robinson

At UCLA, Jackie Robinson earned varsity letters in four sports: baseball, football, basketball and track. In 1997, every Major League team retired his No. 42.

33. Joe Louis, the 'Brown Bomber'

Also accept: the Brown Bomber

Joe Louis held the heavyweight title for nearly 12 consecutive years, the longest reign in the division's history.

34. The Evacuation of Dunkirk

Also accept: Operation Dynamo; the Miracle of Dunkirk

The Dunkirk rescue had a code name: Operation Dynamo. It brought hundreds of thousands of stranded troops back across the Channel.

35. D-Day — the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944

Also accept: the invasion of Normandy; Operation Overlord

The day before the landings, Eisenhower wrote a note taking all the blame himself if D-Day failed.

36. 1–D: Detecting aircraft and ships; 2–C: Calculating artillery firing tables; 3–A: Treating bacterial infections; 4–B: Code-breaking

The microwave oven grew out of wartime radar technology. The same kind of device that generated radar's short waves found a new job heating dinner.

37. 1–D: Parachutes — and stockings; 2–B: Entertaining the troops; 3–C: Limiting civilian purchases; 4–A: Dance halls and swing

When nylon stockings came back after the war, the 'nylon riots' saw thousands of women wait for hours — one Pittsburgh store had 40,000 people lined up for 13,000 pairs.

38. 1–B: Buffalo, NY; 2–C: Chicago; 3–D: Boston; 4–A: New Orleans

Buffalo's sponge candy dislikes summer weather. Its airy center is sensitive to heat and humidity, making it tricky to ship in warm months.

39. 1–C: "I shall return"; 2–D: Nicknamed "Ike"; 3–A: Pacific Fleet commander; 4–B: "Old Blood and Guts"

Congress authorized five-star ranks for Army and Navy officers in December 1944. The first appointments followed that month, during World War II.

40. Chicago Daily Tribune

A printers' strike sent the Tribune to press hours early, before the outcome was clear.

41. False

Welles voiced the Shadow only in 1937 and 1938, alongside Agnes Moorehead as Margo Lane. TV viewers later knew her as Endora on Bewitched.

42. Gordon Parks

Parks's photograph borrowed its title from Grant Wood's famous painting American Gothic. In place of Wood's pitchfork, Parks posed Ella Watson with a broom and mop.

43. Irving Berlin

Louisiana Purchase began with a comic warning about possible libel — sung by a lawyer character. The next year, Bob Hope starred in the movie version.

Your 1940s Memory Journal

This is your space. As you go through this book, capture your thoughts and memories here — the moments, the people, and the places that come back to you.









The Memory Timeline

A lifetime of moments, one shared scrapbook. Walk these years at your own pace, find your favorites, and mark the ones you lived. Most of these milestones echo questions you have already met inside this book, and a few are bonus memories.

★ 1940s ★

1945  VE Day: crowds rejoice as the war in Europe ends

1945  Japan surrenders. World War II is over at last

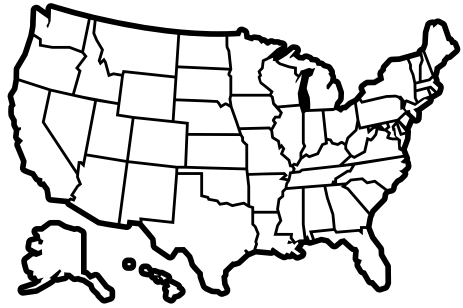
1946  It's a Wonderful Life arrives in theaters

1947  Jackie Robinson breaks baseball's color line

1947  Bell Labs develops the transistor

1947  Levittown welcomes its first families

1948  Dewey Defeats Truman headline proves wrong



★ ★ ★

Bonus Decade: The 1940s — Before Your First Memories

First Edition, 2026

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