

# LGBT History Quiz

When it comes to LGBT history, are you fabulous, fine, fair, or failing? Answer the following questions, then use the answers and ratings to determine how much you know.

1. The word "homosexual" was coined in which year?  
a) 545 B.C.E      c) 1745 C.E.      e) 1938 C.E.  
b) 300 C.E.      d) 1869 C.E.      f) 1959 C.E.
2. Which of the following empires was ruled for over two centuries by openly gay or bisexual emperors?  
a) China      d) All of the above  
b) Rome      e) None of the above  
c) Greece      f) a and b only
3. True or False: Often regarded as the greatest of the early Greek lyric poets, Sappho wrote many of her poems about her relationships with other women.
4. In what century did homosexual acts become illegal in Western Europe?  
a) First century B.C.E.      c) Thirteenth century  
b) First century C.E.      d) Nineteenth century
5. In what nation did the first large-scale gay rights movement begin?  
a) England      c) Germany      e) None of the above  
b) France      d) United States
6. In what year was the first public speech asking for gay rights made? \_\_\_\_\_  
By whom? \_\_\_\_\_
7. True or False: Gay concentration camp survivors were often re-imprisoned by German authorities after being "liberated" by Allied forces after World War II.
8. True or False: American Indians discriminated against people whom they perceived to be gay.

9. In what year was the first person executed for being gay in North America?  
a) 1492 b) 1566 c) 1778 d) 1869
10. In what year was the first American soldier dismissed from the armed forces for being gay?  
a) 1621 b) 1778 c) 1865 d) 1969
11. When was America's first gay rights group founded?  
a) 1869 b) 1924 c) 1951 d) 1969
12. Which president made it illegal for the American government to employ homosexuals?  
a) Washington c) Eisenhower e) Clinton  
b) Lincoln d) Reagan
13. Name America's first lesbian rights organization. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Name the gay African-American man who organized the 1963 March on Washington where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. When was the first gay rights protest in Washington, D.C.?  
a) 1924 b) 1953 c) 1965 d) 1979
16. Who was the first openly gay or lesbian American elected to political office in the United States?  
a) Roberta Achtenberg c) Harvey Milk  
b) Barney Frank d) Elaine Noble
17. What state was the first to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation? \_\_\_\_\_  
In what year? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Name the 1986 Supreme Court decision which upheld the right of the government to invade the homes of gay people and arrest them for engaging in consensual adult homosexual sexual relations. \_\_\_\_\_  
What 2003 Supreme Court decision overruled the 1986 decision? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Name the direct-action group whose civil disobedience demonstrations are credited with pressuring the U.S. government to take action on the AIDS epidemic.

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## GLBT History Quiz #1-Answers

Give yourself one point for each correct answer, or one-half point for each part of a two-point question.

1. d) 1869. A Hungarian psychologist name Benkert invented this term. Prior to this date, people may have committed homosexual "acts," but they were not labeled "homosexuals" (or members of a particular group whose identity derives from those acts) until the nineteenth century.
2. f) a and b only (China and Rome). In China during the Han dynasty (second century B.C.E. until the third century C.E.), many emperors were gay or bisexual. The Chinese term for homosexuality, "duanxiu," means "cut sleeve," referring to a famous story in which an emperor cut off his sleeve rather than awaken his lover, who had fallen asleep on his arm. Rome was ruled in the first two centuries C.E. by fourteen openly-gay or bisexual emperors, including Nero and Hadrian.
3. True. Sappho, writing in the early sixth century B.C. composed poems primarily concerned with her relationships with other women.
4. c) The thirteenth century. Only in the late Middle Ages were homosexual acts made illegal in Western Europe. Some historians believe this was a reaction to the "black" or bubonic plague, which killed one-third of Europeans at that time. Terrified, people began looking for "scapegoats," and persecuted many minority groups- including Jews, "witches," and homosexuals-who were "different" and thus blamed for the disease.
5. c) Germany. German activists began organizing in the 1860s, and formed a gay rights organization with over 100,000 members by the early twentieth century. Its petition drives for legal reform were signed by several prominent figures, including scientist Albert Einstein and writers Thomas Manna and Hermann Hesse.

6. In 1867, by Karl Heinrich Ulrichs. Ulrichs delivered a speech before the Congress of German Jurists in Munich in 1867, calling for the repeal of "Paragraph 175," which made same-sex sexual activities illegal. He also founded the first gay magazine and lobbied for legalization of gay marriage before his death in 1890.

7. a) True. As violators of "Paragraph 175," homosexuals were judged to be criminals; since concentration camps were not considered "jails," the liberated gays were often sent to civil jails after the war to serve their sentences. None ever received financial payments which the German government made to other Holocaust victims.

8. b) False. Native American societies had an institution called "berdache," by which individuals could take on the social role of the opposite sex and then take a same-sex spouse without fear of ridicule. Some tribes actually revered berdaches for their special "calling."

9. b) 1566, when the Spanish executed a French priest for living with a berdache.

10. b) 1778. Gotthold Enslin, a lieutenant, was dismissed at Valley Forge for having been caught in same-sex sexual activity. From 1945-1993, over 100,000 Americans were dismissed from the armed forces for being gay.

11. b) 1924. The Chicago Society for Human Rights was America's first gay rights group, although it existed for less than a year due to police and media harassment.

12. c) Eisenhower. With President Executive Order 10450 in 1953, President Eisenhower bowed to the pressure of Senator McCarthy's "witch hunts," which claimed that not only communists, but also gays, were betraying American secrets to the Russians. These laws were not repealed until 1975.

13. Daughters of Bilitis. Founded in 1955 in San Francisco, this organization also published America's first lesbian magazine, The Ladder.

14. Bayard Rustin. Rustin also taught King the nonviolence civil disobedience techniques which made him famous. Rustin was driven from the civil rights movement because of his homosexuality, which the FBI used to blackmail King.

15. c) 1965. Organized by Frank Kameny and the Mattachine Society, this picket of slightly more than a dozen people aimed to repeal McCarthy-era restrictions on the employment of gays by the federal government.

16. d) Elaine Noble. An open lesbian, Noble was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1975.

17. Wisconsin, in 1982.

18. *Hardwick v. Bowers*. In 1986, the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 vote, upheld the conviction of Michael Hardwick, an Atlanta man who was arrested in the privacy of his home by Georgia police for violating the state's sodomy laws. *Lawrence v. Texas*, the 2003 Supreme Court decision, overruled *Hardwick v. Bowers* and struck down sodomy laws in the 14 states that still had them.

19. ACT-UP. The "AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power" was founded in New York in 1987, six years into the epidemic. At that point, President Reagan had yet to say the word "AIDS" in public. During the first four years of the epidemic, Reagan budgeted less money to fight AIDS (which killed 20,000 Americans during that time) than he did for the "Tylenol scare" when two people died from poisoned Tylenol tablets.

## Ratings:

15-20 points: Fabulous. You really know your stuff, and deserve an immediate tenure-track position as a professor of GLBT Studies.

10-14 points: Fine. You know a lot, but could brush up a bit. Hit the library!

6-9 points: Fair. You really need to buy *Becoming Visible* and read it...tonight!

0-5 points: Failing. Do not pass go, do not collect \$200-go straight to the bookstore and stock up on gay history texts!

**Adopted from GLSEN, 121 West 27th Street, Suite 304, New York, NY 10001**