

Trivia Nights

By Karen Zhang

Karen in America



Trivia Night是在美国广受欢迎的酒吧游戏项目，俗称“益智猜谜晚会”。每逢Trivia Night，各行各业的人聚集在一起，分成几个小组进行小组竞赛，看看谁对美国世界的了解最多。猜谜内容涉及广泛，包括历史、地理、文学、科技、体育等等。对于Karen来说，要想很快为自己的团队贡献分数确实不易，但这无疑是了解美国和世界的窗口。

librarians, people from all walks of life gathered together to compete with their intelligence.

Rules of the game vary slightly in different venues. The game that I participated in included six categories—history, geography, literature, science, sports and pop culture. The host spun^[转] a wheel to determine the question in one of the six categories. After the host read the question, each team wrote the answer on a doodle board^[涂鸦板] and showed it to the host. Each team, having no more than six players must turn in the answer before a pop song finishes. If a team gets a correct answer, it gets a stamp on a score card. The first team to complete the score card with stamps wins the game. The winner gets a \$30 voucher^[代金券] that must be spent on food and drink in the restaurant.

Do you know who was the 12th president of the United States? (Zachary Taylor) Which is the longest river in the States? (the Missouri) Who invented the telephone? (Alexander Graham Bell) You will hear these sort of questions if you sit in a trivia^[琐事] game.

So what is a trivia game? It is a competition where the participants are asked questions about interesting but unimportant facts in many different subjects. Just like its name suggests, the questions are mostly trivial—unimportant.

Trivia games are popular in bars across America. My American friends took me to a trivia game a few times. It was held in a local restaurant with food and loud music. I was surprised by how crowded the restaurant was on Trivia Night. Teachers, lawyers, engineers,

I couldn't contribute much to my team but I did learn a lot about the United States and the world. For example, from question: *with a population of around 2.9 million people, what is the most sparsely^[稀少地] populated, independent country in the world?* The answer is Mongolia. After the game, I became more curious about the maps of the world and of the United States.

Although the United States shares a much shorter history than Chinese history, individual Americans seem to have a more detailed account of their past and people. Every individual, regardless whether famous of history about his or her own life, and their countries. And in a trivia game, these anecdotes^[轶事] and personal stories are the source of the questions. So, now you know how overwhelmed I felt after a night's active brain work. 🧠