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# OOPS! MOMENTS IN HISTORY

## QUIZ QUESTIONS

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1. Who accidentally discovered America in 1492, thinking he had reached Asia?
2. Which famous inventor is credited with accidentally discovering penicillin?
3. What was the name of the ship that famously sank after hitting an iceberg in 1912?
4. Which famous explorer was the first to reach the North Pole, but later had his claim disputed?
5. Which U.S. President accidentally created the "Saturday Night Massacre" during the Watergate scandal?
6. What was the name of the 1986 space shuttle disaster caused by a faulty O-ring?
7. Which country accidentally bombed itself during World War II with a "friendly fire" incident?
8. Which historical figure accidentally shot and killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel?
9. Which famous battle in 1815 is often remembered for the famous mistake of Napoleon being defeated due to bad timing?
10. Which famous scientist's theories led to the accidental discovery of radioactivity?
11. In which year did the "Hindenburg" disaster occur, when a zeppelin caught fire while attempting to land?
12. Which President mistakenly pushed a button that started a nuclear alert in 1983, leading to a near-miss with the Soviet Union?
13. What movie's release date in 1999 caused a huge marketing blunder, resulting in the cancellation of the film in theaters?
14. Who mistakenly called the Titanic "unsinkable" before it sank?
15. What famous "oops" moment occurred during the 1970s with the Watergate break-in, leading to a political scandal?
16. Which U.S. President's attempt to end the Vietnam War with the Paris Peace Accords in 1973 was a miscalculation?
17. Which pop culture moment in 1997 saw the "Macarena" dance trend accidentally overtake the music industry?
18. Which ancient civilization is said to have accidentally collapsed due to deforestation?
19. Which large engineering project was an "oops" moment due to it sinking after completion in 1914?
20. Which historical figure once declared he would "never be defeated" only to be defeated in a crucial battle shortly afterward?

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### Answers:

1. Christopher Columbus, 2. Alexander Fleming, 3. The Titanic, 4. Robert Peary, 5. Richard Nixon, 6. Challenger Disaster, 7. The U.S. accidentally bombed itself in a "friendly fire" incident during World War II, 8. Aaron Burr, 9. The Battle of Waterloo, 10. Marie Curie, 11. 1937, 12. Stanislav Petrov, 13. The film "The Wild Goose Chase," 14. Captain Edward Smith, 15. The Watergate Scandal, 16. Richard Nixon's Paris Peace Accords, 17. "Macarena" craze, 18. The Mayans, 19. The Titanic's construction and sinking, 20. Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo.