

## How Many Questions About USS Indianapolis Can You Answer?

1. How many USS Indianapolis ships have there been? 4—USS Indianapolis (ID 3865), December 1918-July 1919; USS Indianapolis (CA-35) November 1932-July 1945; USS Indianapolis (SSN 697) January 1980-December 1998; USS Indianapolis (LCS 17) October 26, 2019--
2. When was USS Indianapolis CA-35 commissioned? November 7, 1931
3. Who was her Ship Sponsor? Miss Lucy M. Taggart
4. She became the Ship of State for which U.S. President? Franklin D. Roosevelt
5. Name one tour Indy took with this president? Panama Canal Transition; Trip to Brazil, Argentina, & Uruguay; South American “Good Neighbor” Tour
6. The deck of USS Indianapolis CA-35 was made of \_\_\_\_\_? Teak
7. Was USS Indianapolis CA-35 at Pearl Harbor of December 7, 1941? No
8. She was the flagship for which fleet? Fifth
9. Who was in command of that fleet? Admiral Spruance
10. She earned her first battle star when and where? Bougainville Air Action (2-20-42 and Salamaua-Lae Raid (3-10-42)
11. She earned her second battle star when and where? Aleutians Operation: Attu Occupation May 25- June 2, 1943
12. She earned her third battle star when and where? Gilbert Islands Operation November 20-December 8, 1943

13. She earned her fourth battle star when and where? Marshall Islands  
Operation January, 1944-March of 1944
14. She earned her fifth battle star when and where? Asiatic-Pacific Raids  
March 30 – April 1, 1944
15. She earned her sixth battle star when and where? Marianas Operation June  
11, 1944 – July 23, 1944
16. She earned her seventh battle star when and where? Capture/Occupation of  
Tinian Island July 24-25, 1944
17. She earned her eighth battle star when and where? Western Caroline Islands  
Operation Sept 6 – October 14, 1944
18. She earned her ninth battle star when and where? Iwo Jima Operations  
February 15-March 1, 1945
19. She earned her tenth battle star when and where? Okinawa Gunto Operation  
March 17 – April 5, 1945
20. What happened on March 31, 1945? Kamikaze attack
21. How many sailors died as a result of the answer to question 20? 9
22. Where did Indy go for repairs? Mare Island, San Francisco
23. When did they leave on their secret mission? July 16, 1945
24. Who was their captain? Captain Charles McVay III
25. Where were they headed? Tinian
26. Did they know what their mission was? No

27. What record did they break and still hold today? Speed record
28. When did they deliver their mysterious cargo? July 26, 1945
29. From Tinian, they went to Guam and then departed from Guam on what day? July 28, 1945
30. How many souls were aboard USS Indianapolis CA-35 when the next leg of her journey began? 1195
31. What route did they take? Route Peddie
32. What percentage of sailors were new? About 30%
33. Was visibility good the night of July 29, 1945? No
34. Was zigzagging recommended? No
35. Where were many of the men sleeping that night? On the deck
36. Who was the commander of the I-58 submarine? Mochitsura Hashimoto
37. What country was the submarine from? Japan
38. Did the visibility change? Yes, the moon came out when the clouds parted briefly.
39. How many torpedoes were fired? 6
40. How many torpedoes hit their intended target? 2
41. How long before USS Indianapolis CA-35 sank? 12-15 minutes
42. Approximately how many men went into the water? Over 800
43. Approximately how many men went down with the ship? Around 300

44. The men face numerous challenges in the water, name as many as you can.
45. How many nights and days were they in the water before rescue came? Sun exposure, temperature drops at night, dehydration, salt water sores, injuries already sustained on board, salt water poisoning, struggle with their own shipmates, sharks, oil ingestion, eye problems.
46. Name the first pilot to spot the survivors? Wilbur "Chuck" Gwinn, LTJG
47. What nickname did the survivors give this pilot? Angel
48. How many rescue ships eventually arrived? 6
49. How many survived the sinking of the USS Indianapolis CA-35? 316
50. Why was no one looking for USS Indianapolis CA-35? Their mission had been so secret that no escort was provided, intelligence regarding a submarine sinking a US warship was ignored, a missed rendezvous with USS Idaho was ignored, and no one reported their non-arrival in Leyte.
51. While the sailors were recovering and receiving medical care following the disaster, what monumental event took place on August 6, 1945? Dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima
52. When did the survivors learn about their role in that monumental event? Following the bombings while they were still recovering.
53. What was the nickname of the cargo Indy delivered to Tinian? Little Boy
54. What happened because of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945
55. In August of 1945, what was convened to investigate the sinking of USS Indianapolis CA-35? Court of Inquiry

56. What happened because of the Court of Inquiry? Captain McVay was brought up on charges for failure to keep his ship out of harms way (not zigzagging) and not issuing the “abandon ship” order in a timely manner.
57. In an unprecedented move, the US Navy brought who in to testify against Captain McVay? Commander of the submarine that sunk USS Indianapolis (CA-35), Hashimoto
58. What was the result of the court martial? He was convicted on hazarding his ship and acquitted of not giving the abandon ship order.
59. When was the first USS Indianapolis CA-35 reunion? 1960
60. A tragedy occurred on November 6, 1968. What was that tragedy? Captain McVay committed suicide.
61. Did the survivors continue to have reunions? Yes
62. What happened in 1995? The USS Indianapolis Memorial was christened.
63. In the late 1990’s, what middle school student, with help from some important adults, worked to have Captain McVay exonerated? Hunter Scott
64. Who signed the bill exonerating Captain McVay? President Bill Clinton
65. When was the wreckage of USS Indianapolis CA-35 discovered? August 19, 2017
66. What medal was awarded to the crew of USS Indianapolis CA-35 in 2020, coinciding with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the ship?  
Congressional Gold Medal