

Truth or Consequences

Cities in the United States are named after many things. Some are named after people, others are named for ancient places, and still others are named for land features, Native American terms, or even animals. Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, however, is a different story. Known throughout New Mexico as "T or C," the town of Truth or Consequences got its name from the popular 1950's radio show. In the show Truth or Consequences, contestants would have two seconds to answer a difficult trivia question before having to perform an embarrassing stunt. In 1950, the host of the show, Ralph Edwards, announced that he would broadcast the program from a town that agreed to rename itself after the show. The town, originally called Hot Springs, for its naturally hot mineral baths, saw an opportunity to market itself to the entire nation. The residents overwhelmingly voted to change the town's name to Truth or Consequences. Truth or Consequences suddenly received attention from across the nation, but since it was announced on April 1, many assumed it was an April fools joke!

It was no joke, however. According to Ralph Edwards, the town was chosen because it "demonstrated a real friendliness for people and a desire to help mankind." Until his death in 2005, Edwards returned to the town every year in honor of its name change during a city-wide celebration known as "Fiesta." "Fiesta," usually held during the first week of May, celebrates the life of Ralph Edwards and features a parade, a beauty contest and a stage show.

- 1. How did Truth or Consequences get its name?**
 - A. The town of Hot Springs named itself after a radio show.
 - B. It was named after the mineral baths in the area
 - C. It was named after a parade
 - D. It was named after Ralph Edwards
- 2. How did the people of Hot Springs feel about their city's named change?**
 - A. Most of them seemed to disagree with it
 - B. The townspeople seemed to support it strongly
 - C. Some agreed with it, but some disagreed
 - D. The passage does not say
- 3. Why did Hot Springs change its name to Truth or Consequences?**
 - A. To make sure that people came to "Fiesta."
 - B. To make sure Ralph Edwards would visit the town

- C. It was opportunity to get people to visit from around the country
- D. Because there was not a radio show called Hot Springs

4. Which is not true about Truth or Consequences?

- A. It is known as T or C throughout New Mexico
- B. Its city-wide parade, known as “Fiesta” occurs at the end of May each year
- C. “Fiesta” includes a beauty contest
- D. Ralph Edwards visited the town every year while he was alive

5. Which of the following questions is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. Who was Ralph Edwards?
- B. What was Truth or Consequences?
- C. When was Hot Springs founded?
- D. Why did the show Truth or Consequences choose Hot Springs?

6. The story of how Truth or Consequences got its name is

_____.

- A. typical
- B. boring
- C. unusual
- D. normal

7. What is the main difference between the first and second paragraphs?

- A. The first paragraph tells how Hot Springs was founded and the second paragraph tells about Truth or Consequences today.
- B. The first paragraph tells about how Truth or Consequences got its name and the second paragraph tells about a notable event in Truth or Consequences.
- C. The first paragraph tells about how Truth or Consequences got its name and the second paragraph elaborates on how it got its name.
- D. The first paragraph tells about how Truth or Consequences got its name and the second paragraph provides a short biography on Ralph Edwards.