

Early American History (Pre-Colonial) Questions:

Multiple Choice

1. The geologically oldest mountains in North America are:

- a. the Appalachians. b. the Rockies c. the Cascades d. the Sierra Nevada

2. The Indian peoples of the Americas

- a. developed no advanced forms of civilization.
- b. were divided into many diverse cultures speaking more than two thousand different languages.
- c. were all organized into the two large empires of the Incas and the Aztecs.
- d. relied primarily on nomadic hunting for their sustenance.

3. The Iroquois Confederacy remained a strong political and military influence until

- a. the Spanish conquest of the Americas.
- b. the fur trade was wiped out in the early 1700s.
- c. King Philip's War.
- d. the American Revolution.

4. One of the important factors that first stimulated European interest in trade and discovery was

- a. the Christian crusaders who brought back a taste for silks and spices of Asia.
- b. the Arab slave traders on the east coast of Africa.
- c. The Scandinavian sailors who had kept up continuous trade contacts with North America.
- d. the division of Spain into small kingdoms competing for wealth and power.

5. Among the most important Native American products to spread to the Old World were

- a. animals such as buffalo and horses.
- b. technologies such as the compass and the wheel.
- c. economic systems such as plantation agriculture.
- d. foodstuffs such as maize, beans and tomatoes.

6. The primary staples of Indian agriculture were

- a. potatoes, beets and barley.
- b. rice, manioc and peanuts.
- c. maize, beans and squash.
- d. wheat, oats and corn.

7. The # of Indians in North America at the time Columbus arrived was approximately

- a. one million. b. four million c. twenty million d. two hundred and fifty million

8. Before Columbus arrived, the only Europeans to visit North America temporarily were

- a. the Greeks. b. the Irish c. the Norse d. the Italians

9. The Portuguese were the first to enter the slave trade and established large-scale plantations using slave labor in

- a. West Africa. b. the Atlantic sugar islands c. the West Indies d. Brazil

10. Much of the drive for Spanish exploration in the early 1500s came from Spain's recent

- a. successful wars with England.
- b. national unification and expulsion of the Muslim Moors.
- c. voyages of the discovery along the coast of Africa.
- d. conversion to Roman Catholicism.

11. A crucial development that paved the way for European colonization of America was

- a. the rise of Italian city-states like Venice and Genoa.
- b. the feudal nobles' political domination of the merchant class.
- c. the rise of the centralized national monarchies such as that of Spain.
- d. the political alliance between the Christian papacy and Muslim traders.

12. The primary reason for the drastic decline in the Indian population after the encounter with the Europeans was

- a. the rise of intertribal warfare.
- b. the Indians' lack of resistance to European diseases such as smallpox and malaria.
- c. the sharp decline in the Indians birthrate due to the killing of many Indian males by the Europeans
- d. the sudden introduction of the deadly disease syphilis to the New World.

13. Cortés & his men were able to conquer the Aztec capital Tenochtitlán partly because

- a. they had larger forces than the Aztecs.
- b. the Aztec ruler Montezuma believed that Cortés was a god whose return had been predicted.
- c. the Aztecs were peace-loving people with no experience of war or conquest.
- d. the city of Tenochtitlán already had been devastated by a disease epidemic.

14. The primary early colonial competitor with Spain in the Americas was

- a. Portugal. b. Italy c. France d. England

15. The belief that the Spanish only killed, tortured, and stole in the America, while contributing little positive change is called

- a. the encomienda. b. the mission of civilization c. the Evil Empire d. the Black Legend

Part 2:

1. After decades of religious turmoil, Protestantism finally gained permanent dominance in England after the succession of the throne of

- a. King Edward VI b. Queen Mary I c. Queen Elizabeth I d. King James I

2. Imperial England and English soldiers developed a contemptuous attitude toward "natives" partly through their colonizing experiences in

- a. Canada. b. Spain c. India d. Ireland

3. At the time of the first colonization efforts, England

- a. was struggling under the political domination of Spain.
- b. was enjoying a period of social and economic stability.
- c. was undergoing rapid economic and social transformations.
- d. was undergoing sharp political conflicts between advocates of republicanism and the monarchy of Elizabeth I.

4. England's victory over the Spanish Armada gave it

- a. control of the Spanish colonies in the New World.
- b. dominance of the Atlantic Ocean and a vibrant sense of nationalism.
- c. a stable social order and economy.
- d. effective control of the African slave trade.

5. Many of the early Puritan settlers of America were

- a. displaced sailors from Liverpool and Bath
- b. merchants and shopkeepers from the Midlands.
- c. urban laborers from Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- d. uprooted sheep farmers from eastern and western England.

6. England's first colony at Jamestown

- a. was an immediate economic success.
- b. was saved from failure by the leadership of John Smith & by John Rolfe's use of tobacco.
- c. enjoyed the strong and continual support of King James I.
- d. depended on the introduction of African slave labor for its survival.

7. Representative government was first introduced to America in the colony of

- a. Virginia b. Maryland c. North Carolina d. Georgia

8. One important difference between the founding of the Virginia & Maryland was that

- a. Virginia colonists were willing to come only if they could acquire their own land, while Maryland colonists labored for their landlords.
- b. Virginia depended primarily on its tobacco economy, while Maryland turned to rice cultivation.
- c. Virginia depended on African slave labor, while Maryland relied mainly on white indentured servitude.
- d. Virginia was founded mainly as an economic venture, while Maryland was intended partly to secure religious freedom for persecuted Roman Catholics.

9. After the Act of Toleration in 1649, Maryland provided religious freedom for

- a. Jews.
- b. atheists.
- c. Protestants and Catholics.
- d. those who denied the divinity of Jesus.

10. The primary reason that no new colonies were founded between 1634 and 1670 was

- a. the severe economic conditions in Virginia and Maryland
- b. the civil war in England.
- c. the continuous naval conflicts between Spain and England that disrupted sea-lanes.
- d. the English kings' increasing hostility to colonial ventures.

11. The early conflicts between English settlers and the Indians near Jamestown laid the basis for

- a. the intermarriage of white settlers and Indians.
- b. the incorporation of Indians into the "melting-pot" of American culture.
- c. the forced separation of the Indians into the separate territories of the "reservation system."
- d. the use of Indians as a slave-labor force on white plantations.

12. The Indian peoples who most successfully adapted to the European incursion were

- a. those whose organization and customs most resembled those of the invaders.

- b. the coastal tribes like the Powhatans who first encountered the English colonizers.
- c. the more nomadic and warlike tribes who put up the most effective military resistance to the English.
- d. the interior Appalachian tribes who used their advantages of time, space, and numbers to create a “middle ground” of economic and cultural interaction.

13. After the defeat of the coastal Tuscarora and Yamasee Indians by North Carolinians in 1711 – 1715,

- a. there were almost no Indians left east of the Mississippi River.
- b. the remaining southeastern Indian tribes formed an alliance to wage warfare against the white.
- c. the powerful Creeks, Cherokees, and Iroquois remained in the Appalachian Mountains as a barrier against white settlement.
- d. the numerous coastal Indians were confined to reservations in North Carolina and Georgia.

14. Most of the early white settlers in North Carolina were

- a. religious dissenters and poor whites fleeing aristocratic Virginia.
- b. wealthy planters from the West Indies.
- c. the younger, ambitious sons of English gentry.
- d. ex-convicts and debtors released from English prisons.

15. The high-minded philanthropists who founded the Georgia colony were primarily interested in the cause of

- a. women’s rights and labor reform.
- b. temperance and opposition to war.
- c. prison reform and avoiding slavery.
- d. religious and political freedom.