

# AMERICAN HISTORY QUIZ

**1. Jamestown survived as the first permanent British settlement in America because of...**

- a) the emergence of tobacco as a cash crop.
- b) the settlers who followed the example of Roanoke.
- c) the religious convictions of its first settlers.
- d) the mild climate of Virginia.
- e) its use of Indian slaves as a labor force.

**2. Most of the slaves who came to the thirteen mainland colonies in British North America...**

- a) were from the southern part of Africa in what is today South Africa.
- b) were considered to be property and as such could be used as collateral for loans.
- c) were granted their freedom after a specified period of service.
- d) never made up more than 5% of the population of any colony.
- e) were protected from physical harm by the Roman Catholic Church's Canon Law.

**3. The Mayflower Compact could best be described as ...**

- a) a detailed frame of government.
- b) a complete constitution.
- c) a business contract
- d) a foundation for self-government.
- e) an enumeration of the causes for leaving England and coming to the New World.

**4. Seventeenth-century New England and the West Indies ...**

- a) were interdependent because the sugar islands could not feed themselves or supply their own lumber, and New England relied on the Caribbean to purchase its surpluses.
- b) were interdependent because New England's short growing season required the importation of food from the Caribbean Islands
- c) were interdependent because New Englanders used the Caribbean as a "safety valve" for excess population in search of farmland.

- d) had virtually nothing to do with each other because the vast distance between them prohibited economic or cultural exchange.
- e) all of these choices are correct.

**5. Which of the following correctly describes the attitude of most English settlers toward the Indians and their way of life?:**

- a) they assumed the Indians to be their inferiors and showed little respect for Indian society.
- b) they accepted and respected the differences between their own culture and Indian culture.
- c) they were very interested in understanding as many aspects of Indian culture as possible.
- d) they were openly hostile toward the Indians and had no thoughts of living in peace with them.

**6. In founding the colony of Pennsylvania, William Penn's primary purpose was to...**

- a) provide a refuge for persecuted English Quakers.
- b) provide a refuge for persecuted Christians of all sects from all parts of Europe.
- c) demonstrate the possibility and practicality of establishing truly friendly relations with the Indians.
- d) make a financial profit.
- e) provide a refuge for English debtors.

**7. The Virginia House of Burgesses and the New England town meetings were similar in that they...**

- a) originated in a New England colony.
- b) were completely independent of colonial Governors.
- c) were both responsible to the established church of the colony.
- d) represented colonial participation in government.

**8. The Virginia Company attracted new settlers to its colony after 1609 by...**

- a) offering them a share of the company's profits.
- b) advertising the benefits of Virginia's healthy environment and comfortable living conditions.
- c) promising free land at the end of seven years' labor for the company.

d) paying significantly higher wages than those prevailing throughout Europe.

**9. During the first two decades of the 17c, all of the following aided in the establishment and growth of the colony at Jamestown, Virginia, EXCEPT:**

- a) the establishment of the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- b) the beginning of tobacco cultivation.
- c) large influxes of supplies and colonists from England.
- d) the establishment of the ownership of private property.
- e) good relations with the local Native Americans.

**10. As a result of the cultivation of tobacco in Virginia...**

- a) the large estates were divided into smaller agricultural units.
- b) a scattered pattern of settlement emerged in the colony.
- c) the Virginia Company began to send male laborers to the colony.
- d) settlers began to congregate in urban areas.

**11. Why did relations between the elites and the common people change as a result of the American Revolution?:**

- a) the distribution of wealth changed dramatically during the Revolutionary era.
- b) the elites learned that they would have to treat the common people with respect in order to receive their support.
- c) the new state constitutions radically democratized politics and reduced the power of the elites.
- d) the departure of the loyalists removed most of the pre-Revolutionary elite from the nation.

**12. The Mayflower Compact is significant in American political thought because...**

- a) in it the people regard themselves as the source of political power.
- b) it was copied for the Massachusetts Bay Charter.
- c) in it the people agreed to be bound by the will of the majority.
- d) in it church and state are separated.
- e) in it were provisions guaranteeing civil rights for women and blacks.

**13. Most of the thirteen original colonies...**

- a) started as proprietary colonies and became royal colonies by the 1750s.
- b) were within their first twenty years successful in terms of their original plans.
- c) started as charter colonies and became royal colonies by the 1750s.
- d) were formed as royal colonies.
- e) purchased their charters from their proprietors.

**14. In the 1750s, the relationship between the British Empire and the American colonies was characterized by which of the following...**

- a) most Americans believed that the benefits of the empire far outweighed the costs.
- b) the British strictly enforced colonial trade regulations.
- c) most Americans objected to their membership in the British Empire.
- d) the British constantly intervened in American affairs.

**15. Which of the following is properly considered the main purpose of the Navigation Acts?:**

- a) the promotion of trade among the colonies.
- b) the protection of American manufacturing from foreign competition.
- c) to guarantee that England alone would profit from trade with the colonies.
- d) to raise revenue for maintaining the British Empire.
- e) the regulation of the slave trade in the colonies.

**16. The Stamp Act Congress was significant because it..**

- a) demonstrated that the colonies were loyal to Parliament.
- b) repealed the Stamp Act.
- c) led directly to the First Continental Congress.
- d) failed to persuade Parliament of colonial discontent.
- e) marked an important step toward the unity of the colonies.

**17. Which was NOT a result of the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War)?:**

- a) France lost Canada.
- b) Great Britain incurred high war costs.
- c) Great Britain gained Louisiana.
- d) Great Britain saw a need to tighten its administrative system.
- e) Great Britain made a decision to reinvigorate the mercantile system.

**18. Which of the following contributed most to the American victory in the Revolution?:**

- a) French military and financial assistance.
- b) the failure of Loyalists to participate in military action.
- c) a major American military victory at Valley Forge.
- d) support from the French Canadians.
- e) the British failure to capture Philadelphia.

**19. The Declaration of Independence stated that...**

- a) men are created unequal.
- b) governments derive their power from God.
- c) it was not right that a small island should rule a large continent.
- d) people have the right to abolish governments destructive of their rights.
- e) there shall be no taxation without representation.

**20. What was the role of African-Americans in the American Revolution?:**

- a) as the war dragged on, southern blacks were increasingly welcome to enlist.
- b) Americans generally avoided arming blacks, but the British eagerly recruited runaway slaves.
- c) though still enslaved, they rallied around the revolutionary rhetoric of freedom, uniformly supporting the American cause.
- d) very few slaves escaped to freedom; those who did, found themselves welcomed in the north, the West Indies, or Canada.

**21. Britain enjoyed all of the following advantages in the Revolution EXCEPT...**

- a) the greatest navy and best-equipped army in the world.
- b) superior industrial resources.
- c) greater commitment to the conflict.
- d) a coherent structure of command.

**22. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 stipulated...**

- a) British recognition of American independence.

- b) establishment of the boundaries of the new United States from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River between the Great Lakes and Spanish Florida.
- c) that Americans allow British collection of prewar debts from colonists.
- d) all of these choices are correct.

**23. One of the purposes for writing the Declaration of Independence was to...**

- a) persuade the still undecided American populace to accept a permanent break with Great Britain.
- b) convince potential foreign allies of American determination to gain independence.
- c) protect captured American soldiers from possible treatment as traitors.
- d) rally all the states behind a common cause.
- e) convince the British government to accept American independence.

**24. The Battle of Saratoga resulted in...**

- a) an embarrassing defeat for the Continental Army.
- b) an unsuccessful peace overture from Lord North.
- c) France entering the war on the side of the colonies.
- d) renewed efforts of the Loyalists to enlist colonial support.
- e) the treason of Benedict Arnold.

**25. George Washington's primary goal as commander-in-chief of the continental Army was to...**

- a) prevent British reinforcements from coming ashore.
- b) destroy the British Army.
- c) avoid decisive military losses.
- d) secure financial aid from foreign sources.

**26. White residents in South Carolina and Georgia were more restrained in their revolutionary expressions than were counterparts in other colonies because they were...**

- a) primarily rice planters, unaffected by British restrictions.
- b) Anglican and loyal to the Church of England.
- c) closely tied to families back in England.
- d) fearful that talk of rebellion would inspire slaves to revolt.

**27. The group most likely to approve of the Articles of Confederation would be..**

- a) former officers in the Continental army.
- b) those who feared strong central government.
- c) those who held U. S. government securities.
- d) bankers, merchants, and financiers.
- e) those who feared the dangers of unrestrained democracy.

**28. Which of the following amendments to the Constitution was NOT part of the Bill of Rights?:**

- a) freedom of speech, press, and religion.
- b) trial by jury.
- c) protection against illegal search.
- d) the right to bear arms.
- e) direct election of senators.

**29. According to the Constitution, the president is chosen by...**

- a) the House of Representatives.
- b) the Senate.
- c) popular vote of the people.
- d) the electoral college.
- e) both Houses of Congress.

**30. The American Constitutional Convention of 1787 was dominated by...**

- a) isolationists and speculators.
- b) officers and enlisted men of the Continental Army.
- c) men having large property holdings or commercial interests.
- d) backwoods farmers and frontiersmen.
- e) artisans and mechanics.

**31. All of the following were weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation government EXCEPT...**

- a) it lacked the power to levy taxes.
- b) it lacked the power to regulate commerce.
- c) it lacked the power to borrow money.

- d) it could not compel the states to abide by the terms of international treaties it had made.
- e) it lacked a strong executive.

**32. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established what precedent for new territories...**

- a) equality of new states with old.
- b) fair treatment of Indians.
- c) popular sovereignty.
- d) support for public education.
- e) prohibition of slavery.

**33. In *Marbury v. Madison*, Chief Justice John Marshall argued successfully that the Supreme Court could...**

- a) declare federal laws unconstitutional.
- b) remove federal officials who would not or could not perform their duties.
- c) determine cases involving interstate commerce.
- d) decide whether debts should be considered in contracts.
- e) uphold the authority of the federal government over the states

**34. Which of the following does NOT describe the Louisiana Purchase of 1803?:**

- a) the United States purchased Louisiana from France for \$15,000,000.
- b) French power expanded in the Western Hemisphere.
- c) Jefferson expanded the powers of the presidency.
- d) the United States doubled in size.
- e) the treaty of cession left some of the boundaries vague.

**35. The causes of the War of 1812 included all of the following EXCEPT...**

- a) demand for respect of America's neutral rights.
- b) land hunger in the West as well as a desire for Florida.
- c) fear that Indian attacks were caused by the British.
- d) strong sectional rivalries that could only be overcome by an external enemy.

**36. The issuance of the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 was prompted by...**

- a) the Russian annexation of Alaska.
- b) President Monroe's hope of increasing his popularity with the American public.
- c) the fear that France might intervene in Latin America to restore Spanish colonial rule.
- d) continuing British intervention in Latin American affairs.

**37. Before the Civil War, the abolitionists used all of the following tactics EXCEPT...**

- a) using moral persuasion on slaveholders.
- b) providing assistance to escaped slaves.
- c) lobbying state legislatures for "personal liberty" laws.
- d) asking Congress for laws outlawing slavery in the states.

**38. Harriet Tubman gained fame...**

- a) in the gold fields of California.
- b) as an African-American poet.
- c) as an advocate of the Fugitive Slave Law.
- d) by helping slaves to escape to Canada.

**39. Between 1830 and 1860, many southerners came to defend slavery because of all of the following reasons EXCEPT...**

- a) the growth of the cotton economy made slavery very profitable again.
- b) they saw how the North silenced those with pro-slavery opinions while they remained tolerant of opposition.
- c) they believed slaves were better off than the poor unfortunate people who worked in northern factories.
- d) the attacks of the abolitionists pushed them into defending the southern way of life.

**40. The major battle in the western theater during the Civil War which had the effect of splitting the Confederacy in half was...**

- a) the Battle of the Wilderness.
- b) Vicksburg.
- c) Gettysburg.
- d) Antietam.
- e) First Bull Run

**41. The United States Congress during the Civil War...**

- a) could do little because of the absent southern representatives.
- b) due to a lack of funds neglected legislation not directly related to the war.
- c) played a major role in choosing and firing generals to lead the Union forces.
- d) adopted a tariff, a homestead law, and a transcontinental railroad.

**42. The Battle of Gettysburg was significant because it...**

- a) led to an immediate end to the war.
- b) opened an invasion route to the North.
- c) inflicted a major loss on General Lee's army.
- d) cut off supplies to states west of the Mississippi River.

**43. What two issues lay at the heart of Reconstruction?:**

- a) whether the federal or state government was ultimately sovereign, and whether African-Americans or Native Americans were the most oppressed minority group.
- b) which party would gain the ascendance, and how the government could regulate the economy.
- c) the future of political and economic power for freed slaves, and the future of North-South economic and political relations.
- d) rebuilding the North's shattered economy and restoring the South's shattered society.

**44. The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was important because it...**

- a) prohibited slavery within the United States.
- b) guaranteed equal protection under the law for every American citizen.
- c) prohibited any state from denying an American citizen the right to vote based on race/ethnic background, color, or having previously been a slave.
- d) provided Congress with the power to establish and collect income taxes.
- e) prohibited any state from denying women the right to vote.

**45. The two factors that did most to stimulate rapid western settlement were...**

- a) the Homestead Act and the railroad.
- b) removal of the buffalo and Native Americans from the plains.
- c) the gold rushes and the rise of the great cattle kingdoms.
- d) the removal of the Indians and the gold rushes.

**46. Open-range ranching came to an end due to...**

- a) overproduction of beef and declining prices.
- b) federal support for irrigated agriculture.
- c) the range wars between cattlemen and sheepherders.
- d) increase in cattle production in the Midwest and East.
- e) fencing of the plains with barbed wire.

**47. The Homestead Act provided...**

- a) that Indians should henceforth own their lands as individuals rather than collectively as tribes.
- b) 160 acres of free land within the public domain to any head of household who would settle on it and improve it over a period of five years.
- c) large amounts of federal government land to Great Plains cattle ranchers who would contract to provide beef for the Union army.
- d) 40 acres of land to each former slave above the age of 21.
- e) that the land of former Confederates should not be confiscated.

**48. What was a major reason that farmers did NOT settle the Great Plains before 1860?:**

- a) they had enough good land in the East.
- b) they had no way to stop cattle ranchers from using the Great Plains for grazing.
- c) they did not know how to cope with the absence of water and trees.
- d) farm families were too small to provide enough labor to plant and harvest crops on the plains.

**49. All of the following were important factors in post-Civil War industrial expansion EXCEPT..**

- a) a large pool of unskilled labor.
- b) American ingenuity and inventiveness.
- c) an abundance of natural resources.

d)immigration restrictions.

**50. General Charles Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown resulted largely from the...**

a) failure of the British to capture and hold Charleston as a base of operations.

b) mass desertion of Hessians from the British army.

c) arrival of fresh Spanish soldiers to reinforce Washington's army.

d) the defection of Benedict Arnold at West Point.

e) French fleet winning control of the Chesapeake Bay.