ALASKA HISTORY · ALASKA

Alaska History

Practice Test

Unit 2: Russian America and the Purchase

25 Questions

Original practice test based on the Alaska curriculum. Work through each question, then check your answers at the end.

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

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Question 1

Which Russian explorer led the 1741 expedition that reached Alaska

A) Vitus Bering

B) Alexander Baranov

C) Grigori Shelikhov

D) James Cook

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Flag a mistake

Question 2

The Russian fur trade in Alaska was built mainly on pelts from which animal

A) gold fox

B) sea otter

C) timber wolf

D) brown bear

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Flag a mistake

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Question 3

The first permanent Russian settlement in Alaska was founded in 1784 at

A) Sitka

B) Unalaska

C) Three Saints Bay

D) Fort Ross

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Question 4

The Russian American Company received its charter from the Russian tsar in which year

A) 1741

B) 1784

C) 1867

D) 1799

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Question 5

Who was the first chief manager of the Russian American Company in Alaska

A) Alexander Baranov

B) William Seward

C) Charles Sumner

D) Vitus Bering

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Question 6

After 1808 the capital of Russian America was located at

A) Kodiak

B) Sitka

C) Unalaska

D) Anchorage

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Question 7

Russian Orthodox missionaries first arrived on Kodiak Island in 1794 to

A) search for gold

B) build a railroad

C) spread their faith and serve settlers

D) survey for a pipeline

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Question 8

Russian fur hunters relied heavily on which skilled Native hunters in kayaks

A) Russian soldiers

B) British sailors

C) Spanish farmers

D) Unangan hunters

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Question 9

By the mid 1800s the sea otter population in Alaska had fallen mainly because of

A) overhunting for the fur trade

B) migration to the Atlantic Ocean

C) a treaty protecting otters in 1800

D) colder ocean water

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Question 10

Russia was willing to sell Alaska in part because the colony was

A) rich in gold mines owned by Russia

B) hard to defend and costly to supply

C) already a United States state

D) owned by Britain

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Question 11

The United States official who negotiated the purchase of Alaska was Secretary of State

A) Charles Sumner

B) Andrew Johnson

C) William Seward

D) Ulysses Grant

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Question 12

The United States agreed to pay Russia about how much for Alaska

A) 1.2 million dollars

B) 3.5 million dollars

C) 5.0 million dollars

D) 7.2 million dollars

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Question 13

In what year was the treaty for the purchase of Alaska signed

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Question 14

The formal transfer of Alaska to the United States took place at Sitka on

A) March 30

B) October 18

C) July 4

D) January 3

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Question 15

At about 7.2 million dollars for about 370 million acres the purchase cost about

A) 2 cents per acre

B) 20 cents per acre

C) 2 dollars per acre

D) 20 dollars per acre

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Question 16

Critics who thought the purchase was a waste of money nicknamed it

A) a golden bargain

B) a wise purchase

C) a Russian gift

D) Sewards Folly

Understand It with Pulse Flag a mistake

Question 17

Right after the purchase Alaska was first administered by the United States as the

A) Department of Alaska under military rule

B) State of Alaska

C) Territory with an elected legislature

D) Russian province of Alaska

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Question 18

Fort Ross founded in 1812 was best described as

A) an Alaska gold town

B) a Russian farming outpost in California

C) a British fort in Alaska

D) a United States naval base

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Question 19

The Battle of Sitka in 1804 was fought between

A) Russians and British

B) Americans and Russians

C) Tlingit and Russians

D) Haida and Americans

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Question 20

The Russian fur trade changed Unangan life mainly by

A) teaching wheat farming

B) building railroads

C) ending sea hunting

D) pressing many Unangan into fur hunting and moving villages

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Question 21

Russian traders in Alaska sold many sea otter pelts to merchants in

A) China

B) France only

C) Mexico

D) Brazil

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Question 22

The United States wanted Alaska in part for

A) cotton farming

B) Pacific ports and trade and to limit British expansion

C) gold already proven in large amounts

D) whaling alone

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Question 23

The Alaska Day holiday on October 18 marks which event

A) the treaty signing in Washington

B) the gold discovery at Juneau

C) the transfer ceremony at Sitka

D) the statehood vote

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Question 24

Which United States senator gave a long speech supporting the purchase of Alaska

A) William Seward

B) Andrew Johnson

C) Alexander Baranov

D) Charles Sumner

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Question 25

Which statement best explains why Russia agreed to sell Alaska in 1867

A) Alaska had become a United States state

B) Russia wanted American gold mines

C) a distant colony was costly to defend and the fur trade was declining

D) Britain had already bought Alaska

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ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. D
13. 1867
14. B
15. A
16. D
17. A
18. B
19. C
20. D
21. A
22. B
23. C
24. D
25. C

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