UNITED STATES HISTORY I · ILLINOIS

United States History I

Practice Test

Unit 1: Exploration and Colonization

25 Questions

Original practice test based on the Illinois 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 European explorer reached the Americas in 1492?

A) John Cabot

B) Christopher Columbus

C) Jacques Cartier

D) Henry Hudson

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Question 2

In what year did Christopher Columbus first reach the Americas?

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Question 3

A major motive for European exploration in the 1400s and 1500s was the desire for

A) ice and timber

B) gold and spices

C) coal and steel

D) silk and tea only

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Question 4

The Columbian Exchange mainly describes the movement of plants, animals, diseases, and people between

A) Asia and Africa

B) Europe and Australia

C) the Americas and Europe

D) Europe and Antarctica

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Question 5

Which crop from the Americas became an important food in Europe after the Columbian Exchange?

A) Wheat

B) Barley

C) Rice

D) Potato

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Question 6

Which disease brought from Europe caused very high death rates among many Native American peoples?

A) Smallpox

B) Malaria only

C) Scurvy

D) Rickets

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Question 7

In what year was Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, founded?

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Question 8

Jamestown was founded in which present day state?

A) Massachusetts

B) Virginia

C) Georgia

D) South Carolina

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Question 9

Which crop helped Jamestown become economically viable under John Rolfe?

A) Cotton

B) Indigo

C) Tobacco

D) Corn only

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Question 10

The House of Burgesses, created in Virginia in 1619, was important because it was

A) the first royal court in America

B) a council of Native chiefs

C) a trading company board

D) the first elected assembly in English America

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Question 11

In what year did the first enslaved Africans arrive in Virginia?

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Question 12

Which colony was founded by the Pilgrims in 1620?

A) Plymouth

B) Jamestown

C) New Amsterdam

D) Charleston

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Question 13

The Mayflower Compact is best described as an agreement to

A) trade only with England

B) form a government by consent of the governed

C) ban all farming

D) return to England

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Question 14

Which group founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630?

A) Quakers

B) Catholics

C) Puritans

D) Lutherans

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Question 15

Roger Williams founded Rhode Island mainly to promote

A) a single state church

B) trade with Spain only

C) royal rule without elections

D) religious freedom and separation of church and state

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Question 16

Maryland was founded as a refuge mainly for which religious group?

A) Catholics

B) Quakers

C) Puritans

D) Anglicans

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Question 17

William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a colony for

A) Baptists

B) Quakers

C) Presbyterians

D) Methodists

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Question 18

Which colonial region relied most on large plantations growing tobacco and rice with enslaved labor?

A) New England

B) Middle Colonies

C) Southern Colonies

D) Backcountry only

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Question 19

New England colonies were best known economically for

A) plantation cotton

B) gold mining

C) tobacco plantations

D) fishing, shipbuilding, and trade

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Question 20

The Middle Colonies were often called the breadbasket colonies because they grew large amounts of

A) wheat

B) rice

C) cotton

D) sugar

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Question 21

Triangular trade linked Europe, Africa, and the Americas in the exchange of

A) only gold and silver

B) manufactured goods, enslaved people, and raw materials

C) only finished cloth

D) only farm animals

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Question 22

Mercantilism held that a nation grew wealthy by

A) importing more than it exported

B) banning all trade

C) exporting more than it imported and gaining gold

D) giving colonies free trade

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Question 23

The Navigation Acts required that most colonial trade be carried on

A) Spanish ships

B) French ships

C) Dutch ships

D) English ships

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Source I - A Jamestown Settler Letter, 1609

Use this reading for questions 24 to 25.

We came seeking gold and a passage to Asia, but we found marshy ground, brackish water, and sickness. Many of our company have died, and food is scarce. We must learn to farm this land, or we will not survive the winter.

Question 24

According to Source I, an early problem at Jamestown was

A) sickness and scarce food

B) too much gold

C) a ban on farming

D) attack by Spain

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Question 25

Source I suggests the settlers first expected Jamestown to bring wealth mainly from

A) farming wheat

B) gold and trade to Asia

C) fishing

D) shipbuilding

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. 1492
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. A
7. 1607
8. B
9. C
10. D
11. 1619
12. A
13. B
14. C
15. D
16. A
17. B
18. C
19. D
20. A
21. B
22. C
23. D
24. A
25. B

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