Exploration and Colonization — Practice Test

South Dakota United States History I • 25 questions

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.

1 **Which European explorer reached the Americas in 1492?**

- A John Cabot
- B Christopher Columbus
- C Jacques Cartier
- D Henry Hudson

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **In what year did Christopher Columbus first reach the Americas?**

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A Wheat

B Barley

C Rice

D Potato

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **Jamestown was founded in which present day state?**

A Massachusetts

B Virginia

C Georgia

D South Carolina

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **Which crop helped Jamestown become economically viable under John Rolfe?**

A Cotton

B Indigo

C Tobacco

D Corn only

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **Which colony was founded by the Pilgrims in 1620?**

A Plymouth

B Jamestown

C New Amsterdam

D Charleston

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **Which group founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630?**

A Quakers

B Catholics

C Puritans

D Lutherans

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A Catholics

B Quakers

C Puritans

D Anglicans

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a colony for**

A Baptists

B Quakers

C Presbyterians

D Methodists

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **New England colonies were best known economically for**

A plantation cotton

B gold mining

C tobacco plantations

D fishing, shipbuilding, and trade

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A wheat

B rice

C cotton

D sugar

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **The Navigation Acts required that most colonial trade be carried on**

- **A** Spanish ships
- **B** French ships
- **C** Dutch ships
- **D** English ships

Understand It with Pulse **Flag a mistake**

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.

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.