



NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES LEAGUE - 2015

AMERICAN HISTORY CONTEST

- ANSWER KEY -

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> C </u> |
| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> B </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> A </u> |
| 4. <u> C </u> | 29. <u> B </u> |
| 5. <u> A </u> | 30. <u> C </u> |
| 6. <u> B </u> | 31. <u> D </u> |
| 7. <u> B </u> | 32. <u> B </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> A </u> |
| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> C </u> |
| 10. <u> D </u> | 35. <u> C </u> |
| 11. <u> B </u> | 36. <u> D </u> |
| 12. <u> A </u> | 37. <u> D </u> |
| 13. <u> D </u> | 38. <u> B </u> |
| 14. <u> C </u> | 39. <u> A </u> |
| 15. <u> D </u> | 40. <u> C </u> |
| 16. <u> C </u> | 41. <u> B </u> |
| 17. <u> B </u> | 42. <u> D </u> |
| 18. <u> D </u> | 43. <u> B </u> |
| 19. <u> C </u> | 44. <u> C </u> |
| 20. <u> A </u> | 45. <u> A </u> |
| 21. <u> B </u> | 46. <u> A </u> |
| 22. <u> A </u> | 47. <u> D </u> |
| 23. <u> B </u> | 48. <u> D </u> |
| 24. <u> D </u> | 49. <u> C </u> |
| 25. <u> C </u> | 50. <u> B </u> |

AMERICAN HISTORY CONTEST

Directions: Choose the best answer to the question or the best word or phrase that completes the statement. Write the letter of that choice next to the number on the answer sheet.

1. The Jamestown colony was established in 1607
 - A) by the king to prevent Spain from settling in the region.
 - B) as an investment by stockholders to set up farming communities.
 - C) by adventurers as a base to search for gold in the New World.
 - D) to find survivors of the ill-fated Roanoke colony.

2. A major cause of the French and Indian War that began between Great Britain and France in 1756 was
 - A) conflict over the land west of the Appalachian Mountains.
 - B) dispute over control of the St. Lawrence River Valley.
 - C) disagreement over the rights of Native American Indians.
 - D) conflicting claims to land west of the Mississippi River.

3. In the 1760's the British Parliament justified imposing a number of taxes in the American colonies by claiming that
 - A) colonial representatives in Parliament agreed to the taxes.
 - B) the colonists had failed to support Great Britain in the French and Indian War.
 - C) colonial legislatures had failed to send enough tribute to Great Britain.
 - D) colonists should share in the costs of defending and maintaining the colonies.

4. Which of the following statements about the Declaration of Independence is a fact, not an opinion?
 - A) The majority of the colonists supported the Declaration.
 - B) The Declaration established freedom in the colonies.
 - C) The reasons for its issuance were stated in the Declaration.
 - D) The Declaration expressed legitimate complaints of the colonists.

Directions: Use these excerpts and your knowledge of social studies to answer questions 5-8.

**Excerpts from the Report of the Annapolis Convention,
September 14, 1786**

(The report was addressed to the legislatures of Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, the only states that sent delegations to the Annapolis Convention. New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania commissioners were sent with instructions to consider a uniform system of commerce and trade. The delegates from New Jersey were empowered to also consider "other important matters".)

...The express terms of the powers of your Commissioners supposing a deputation from all the States..., your Commissioners did not conceive it advisable to proceed on the business of their mission under so partial and defective a representation.

Deeply impressed with the magnitude and importance of the object confided to them on this occasion, your Commissioners ... express their earnest and unanimous wish that speedy measures be taken to effect a general meeting of the States, in a future Convention, for the same, and such other purposes, as the situation of public affairs may be found to require...

Your Commissioners submit an opinion that the idea of extending the powers of their Deputies to other objects than those of Commerce, which had been adopted by the State of New Jersey, was an improvement on the original plan, and will deserve to be incorporated into that of a future Convention...They think that the power of regulating trade is of such a comprehensive extent, and to obviate questions and doubts concerning its precise nature and limits, that to give it efficacy may require a corresponding adjustment of other parts of the Federal System...

That there are defects in the present system of the Federal Government is acknowledged by the Acts of all those states which have concurred in the present Meeting...Your Commissioners beg leave to suggest their unanimous conviction that it may advance the interests of the union if the States would themselves concur in the appointment of Commissioners to meet at Philadelphia on the second Monday of next May to devise further provisions as shall appear to them necessary to render the Constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union...

5. What action was taken by the delegates to the Annapolis Convention?
- A) they recommended that another meeting of delegates should be convened
 - B) none, because the delegates were deadlocked
 - C) they recommended federal control of interstate commerce
 - D) none, because the delegates had conflicting instructions from the states
6. The United States at the time of the Annapolis Convention was governed under the
- A) Committees of Correspondence.
 - B) Articles of Confederation.
 - C) Constitution of the United States.
 - D) Second Continental Congress.
7. The delegates to the Annapolis Convention wanted a convention with broader powers because
- A) the government of the United States lacked a Bill of Rights.
 - B) changes in trade and commerce required other changes in the powers and structure of the federal government.
 - C) fewer than half of the states sent delegates to the Annapolis Convention.
 - D) the states believed that the federal government was too powerful.
8. The meeting that was convened in May, 1787 at the request of the Annapolis Convention became
- A) a committee to write the Federalist Papers.
 - B) the formal session of the electoral college that chose George Washington as the first President of the United States.
 - C) the Constitutional Convention that wrote the Constitution of the United States.
 - D) the first session of the United States Congress.

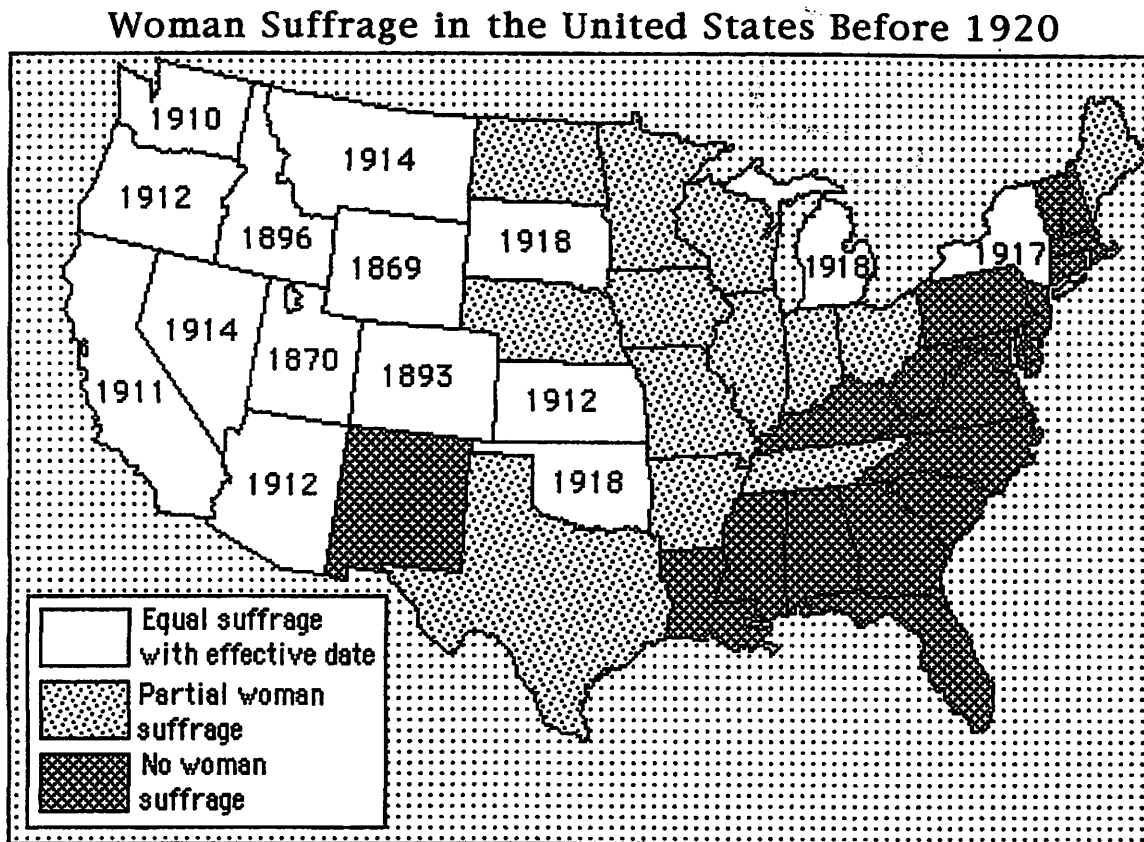
9. France signed a treaty of alliance with the American revolutionaries and declared war on Great Britain in 1778 after
- A) John Paul Jones broke the British blockade of the colonies.
 - B) the Continental Congress promised to restore Canada to France.
 - C) Great Britain declared war on France for aiding the colonists.
 - D) the colonists won the Battle of Saratoga.
10. Which of the following is an example of the principle of checks and balances in the United States system of government?
- A) State legislatures develop election laws that govern the election of the presidential electors and members of Congress.
 - B) A conference committee reconciles different versions of laws passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate.
 - C) An electoral college selects the President and the Vice President.
 - D) The Senate must approve a President's appointments to the Supreme Court and the Cabinet.
11. In *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) the Supreme Court ruled that
- A) the Supreme Court can declare acts of Congress unconstitutional.
 - B) states may not tax agencies of the federal government.
 - C) the federal government has sole jurisdiction over interstate commerce.
 - D) slaves are property and thus have no rights as citizens.
12. Though ratified in 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution did not have far-reaching impact until after World War II when Supreme Court rulings established that
- A) rights of citizens under the Bill of Rights could not be violated by the states.
 - B) Senators had to be elected directly by the people.
 - C) powers not specifically given to the federal government remained with the states.
 - D) Congress could impose a direct tax on incomes.

13. President Jefferson dealt with the problem of pirates attacking United States merchant ships in the Mediterranean Sea by
- A) imposing an embargo to keep American ships out of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - B) allying with Great Britain to outlaw piracy on the high seas.
 - C) increasing the tribute paid to pirates to leave United States vessels alone.
 - D) sending naval warships to attack pirate bases in North Africa.
14. Which event demonstrated that the Industrial Revolution had spread to the United States by 1800?
- A) The Erie Canal had been built across New York State.
 - B) Trade had increased between Great Britain and the United States.
 - C) Textile mills had been built in New England.
 - D) Coal and iron mines had been dug in the Midwest.
15. The United States issued the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 in response to
- A) a disruption in trade brought about by political unrest in Latin America.
 - B) the establishment of military dictatorships in Latin America.
 - C) concern that Great Britain would expand its colonial empire in the Caribbean region.
 - D) the threat that Spain would try to restore control over its former colonies in Latin America.
16. His supporters believed that a "corrupt bargain" between two of the four other candidates had unfairly stolen the election for President in 1824 from
- A) John C. Calhoun.
 - B) Henry Clay.
 - C) Andrew Jackson.
 - D) Daniel Webster.
17. The temperance movement developed in the 19th Century to oppose
- A) gambling.
 - B) alcoholic beverages.
 - C) tobacco products.
 - D) prostitution.

18. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 included all of the following provisions, except
- A) Maine would be admitted to the Union as a free (non-slave) state.
 - B) slavery would be banned in most of the territory of the Louisiana Purchase.
 - C) Missouri would be admitted to the Union as a slave state.
 - D) all other newly-admitted states would be free to choose between being slave or non-slave states.
19. The Confederate States of America was first formed in 1861 from seven states that had seceded from the Union after Lincoln
- A) became President and promised to free the slaves.
 - B) sent troops to the slave-holding border states.
 - C) was elected, but before he was inaugurated.
 - D) fortified the military base at Fort Sumter in South Carolina.
20. Which is true of the role of African Americans in the Civil War?
- A) African Americans soldiers served in the Union armed forces under the command of white officers.
 - B) African Americans served in integrated units with white soldiers.
 - C) African Americans served in the Union Army only in non-combat roles.
 - D) Free African Americans were accepted into the Union Army from the start of the war.
21. All of the following were used to deny rights to freed slaves in the South after the Civil War, except the
- A) black codes.
 - B) Freedmen's Bureau.
 - C) poll tax.
 - D) Jim Crow laws.
22. The most frequent sharp conflicts that developed in the Great Plains in the 1870's and 1880's were between
- A) ranchers and farmers.
 - B) ranchers and miners.
 - C) farmers and miners.
 - D) ranchers and factory-owners.

23. The laborers who built the first transcontinental railroad were mostly
- A) pioneers.
 - B) immigrants.
 - C) slaves.
 - D) Civil War veterans.
24. The Interstate Commerce Commission was established as a federal regulatory agency because of unfair practices by
- A) labor unions.
 - B) the farmers' Grange.
 - C) merchants and manufacturers.
 - D) the railroad industry.
25. Which of the following statements about the Spanish American War is an opinion, not a fact?
- A) The battleship, *Maine*, blew up in Havana harbor.
 - B) The United States navy attacked the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.
 - C) The United States declared war against Spain to annex Cuba.
 - D) American newspapers encouraged support for Cuban revolutionaries.
26. The Open Door policy was developed primarily to protect United States economic interests in trade with
- A) India.
 - B) Europe.
 - C) China.
 - D) Latin America.
27. Populism in the late 19th Century and Progressivism in the early 20th Century were similar in that both favored
- A) the gold standard.
 - B) regulation of big business.
 - C) limitations on immigration.
 - D) federal subsidies for farmers.
28. Interception of the Zimmermann telegram contributed to the United States decision to declare war on Germany in 1917 because it
- A) proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico.
 - B) called upon German-Americans to assassinate President Wilson.
 - C) ordered German submarines to sink the *Lusitania*.
 - D) asked German-Americans to provide military secrets to Germany.

Directions: Use the map below of woman suffrage before 1920 and your knowledge of social studies to answer questions 29 - 33.



29. The only two states east of the Mississippi River that gave women the full right to vote before 1920 were
- A) Pennsylvania and Ohio. C) Massachusetts and Minnesota.
 B) New York and Michigan. D) New York and Wisconsin.
30. How many states gave women the full right to vote in the 19th Century?
- A) two B) three C) four D) five
31. Which was the only state to give women the right to vote more than fifty years before the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified?
- A) Colorado B) Montana C) Idaho D) Wyoming

32. The only two states west of the Mississippi that fully denied women the right to vote before 1920 were
- A) Mississippi and Arizona. C) Arkansas and New Mexico.
B) Louisiana and New Mexico. D) Louisiana and Arizona.
33. All of the following statements about woman suffrage before 1920 are correct, except which one?
- A) Most states denied women any rights to vote.
B) The region of the nation most resistant to woman suffrage was the Southeast.
C) Women's contributions to the war effort during World War I probably helped them get the vote in at least three states.
D) The region of the nation most supportive of women's right to vote was the West.
34. All of the following were novelists who wrote about different aspects of American society in the 1920's and 1930's except
- A) F. Scott Fitzgerald. C) James Fenimore Cooper.
B) Sinclair Lewis. D) John Steinbeck.
35. A key feature of the immigration acts passed during the 1920's was
- A) an increase in immigration from Asia.
B) strict limitations on immigration from Latin America.
C) a national origins quota system.
D) preference given to immigrants with skills and education.
36. President Franklin Roosevelt experienced one of his few legislative defeats when Congress rejected his proposal to
- A) pass legislation favoring labor unions.
B) increase regulation of banks and the stock market.
C) subsidize agricultural prices and pay farmers not to grow crops.
D) increase the number of Justices of the Supreme Court.

37. The threat of war in Europe brought on by Nazi aggression and Fascist militarism led the United States in 1935, 1936, and 1937 to
- A) build up its armed forces.
 - B) join the League of Nations and become active in its efforts to maintain peace.
 - C) send military aid to Great Britain and France.
 - D) adopt neutrality laws to keep the United States out of European conflicts.
38. During World War II, the first major counterattack by the Allies against Germany and other Axis powers in Europe was the invasion of
- A) Sicily.
 - B) North Africa.
 - C) France.
 - D) Greece.
39. The Truman Doctrine, the Berlin Airlift, and the formation of NATO are examples of which United States foreign policy during the cold war?
- A) containment
 - B) massive retaliation
 - C) détente
 - D) peaceful coexistence
40. Aaron Copland, Charles Ives, and Leonard Bernstein are prominent figures in 20th Century American
- A) architecture.
 - B) modern art.
 - C) classical music.
 - D) popular music.
41. Before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's, a significant step against racial segregation was taken in the late 1940's when
- A) the poll tax was declared unconstitutional.
 - B) President Truman ordered that the armed forces should be racially integrated.
 - C) the federal government initiated affirmative action programs.
 - D) African American veterans of World War II were elected to public office in the South.

42. A major cause of inflation during the 1970's was
- A) a reduction in the income tax rates.
 - B) the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) going into effect.
 - C) the cancellation of wage and price controls after the war in Vietnam ended.
 - D) a shortage in the supply and increase in the price of petroleum.
43. The United States was the first nation in the exploration of space to
- A) send an unmanned satellite into orbit around the Earth.
 - B) launch a space ship that could land safely after orbiting the Earth.
 - C) send a human being into orbit around the Earth in a space capsule.
 - D) launch a space platform into orbit around the Earth.

