

5th Grade History Quiz

Fifteen questions about early American history, from Native Americans and explorers through the R...

Name / Team:

Score:

1 Who were the first people to live in North America?

- A. The Pilgrims
- B. The Spanish
- C. Native Americans (Indigenous peoples)
- D. The Vikings

2 In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain seeking a route to Asia. Where did he actually land?

- A. Florida
- B. Mexico
- C. The Caribbean islands
- D. Virginia

3 What was the name of the first permanent English settlement in America, founded in 1607?

- A. Plymouth
- B. Roanoke
- C. Jamestown
- D. Boston

4 Why did the Pilgrims come to America on the Mayflower?

- A. To find gold
- B. To practice their religion freely
- C. To trade with Native Americans
- D. To escape a war

5 What Native American woman helped the Jamestown colonists and is part of a famous story involving John Smith?

- A. Sacagawea
- B. Squanto
- C. Pocahontas
- D. Sequoyah

6 What did colonists dump into Boston Harbor to protest British taxes?

- A. Sugar
- B. Stamps
- C. Tea
- D. Cotton

7 Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- A. George Washington
- B. Benjamin Franklin
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. John Adams

8 What was the 'shot heard round the world'?

- A. The start of the Civil War
- B. The first battle of the American Revolution at Lexi...
- C. The signing of the Declaration
- D. The attack on Pearl Harbor

9 What were the 13 original colonies?

- A. The first 13 states that formed the United States
- B. 13 Native American nations
- C. 13 British trading posts
- D. 13 cities along the coast

10 Who was the commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution?

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. Benjamin Franklin
- C. George Washington
- D. Paul Revere

11 What important document, ratified in 1788, established the framework for the US government?

- A. The Declaration of Independence
- B. The Bill of Rights
- C. The Constitution
- D. The Articles of Confederation

5th Grade History Quiz

(continued)

12 What famous ride did Paul Revere take in 1775?

- A. He sailed to England
- B. He rode from Boston to warn colonists that the Bri...
- C. He rode to sign the Declaration
- D. He rode to Valley Forge

13 What were the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?

- A. The Preamble
- B. The Articles
- C. The Bill of Rights
- D. The Federalist Papers

14 What cash crop saved the Jamestown colony from failure?

- A. Corn
- B. Cotton
- C. Tobacco
- D. Rice

15 What was Benjamin Franklin famous for besides being a Founding Father?

- A. He was a famous painter
- B. He was a scientist, inventor, and printer
- C. He was a professional soldier
- D. He was a ship captain

5th Grade History Quiz — Answer Key

1. C Native Americans (Indigenous peoples)

Native Americans lived in North America for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. They had diverse cultures, languages, and civilizations across the continent.

2. C The Caribbean islands

Columbus landed in the Bahamas, not mainland America. He made four voyages to the Caribbean and Central/South America but never reached North America.

3. C Jamestown

Jamestown, Virginia, was established in 1607 by the Virginia Company. It struggled with starvation and conflict but survived to become the first lasting English colony.

4. B To practice their religion freely

The Pilgrims were Separatists who left England to worship freely. They landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620 and signed the Mayflower Compact.

5. C Pocahontas

Pocahontas was the daughter of Chief Powhatan. She helped build relationships between the Powhatan people and the English settlers at Jamestown.

6. C Tea

The Boston Tea Party (1773) was a protest against the Tea Act. Colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians dumped 342 chests of British tea into the harbor.

7. C Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was the main author. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams helped revise it. It was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

8. B The first battle of the American Revo...

The phrase refers to the first shots fired at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, beginning the American Revolution.

9. A The first 13 states that formed the U...

The 13 colonies were British settlements along the Atlantic coast. They declared independence in 1776 and became the first 13 states of the United States.

10. C George Washington

George Washington led the Continental Army through the Revolution and later became the first President of the United States.

11. C The Constitution

The US Constitution established three branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial) and the system of checks and balances still used today.

12. B He rode from Boston to warn colonists...

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere rode from Boston to Lexington to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British soldiers were approaching.

13. C The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791. It guarantees individual freedoms like freedom of speech, religion, and the right to a fair trial.

14. C Tobacco

John Rolfe introduced a sweeter variety of tobacco that became hugely popular in England. Tobacco became the colony's main source of income.

15. B He was a scientist, inventor, and printer

Franklin was a printer, scientist (electricity experiments), inventor (bifocals, Franklin stove), diplomat, and writer. He is on the \$100 bill.