



United States History

US History Pre-Test

Name:

Section:

Score ____/5

Directions: This is a pre-test and will not count towards your final score. The purpose of this test is to assess your pre-existing knowledge of United States History. I will use information from this test to figure out what areas we really need to cover, and which areas we do not need to as much. At the end of the year you will take a similar quiz which will help assess how much you have improved. Do your best!

Multiple Choice: In the space provided write in the letter of the answer that best answers the question.

- _____ 1. How did humans first reach North America?
- A. Boat
B. Swim
C. Airplane
D. Walk
- _____ 2. Which non-native American group was the first to land in North America?
- A. Spanish
B. Vikings
C. Chinese
D. English
- _____ 3. Which explorer had the largest impact on the **permanent** settlement of the Americas?
- A. Christopher Columbus
B. Erik the Red
C. Zheng He
D. Ferdinand Magellan
- _____ 4. Which county (countries) have owned part of what is now the United States at one point?
- A. France
B. Spain
C. England
D. All of the Above
E. A&C but not B
- _____ 5. Which of the following are reasons why Europeans first came to North America?
- A. Religious Freedom
B. To make money
C. Came as Slaves
D. All of the Above
E. A&B but not c
- _____ 6. Which of the following is a reason(s) why Africans first came to North America?
- A. Religious Freedom
B. To make money
C. Came as Slaves
D. All of the Above
E. A&B but not c
- _____ 7. Why was the settlement at Jamestown not successful?
- A. Grew tobacco instead of food
B. Poor leadership
C. Fighting with the Natives
D. All of the Above
E. None of the above

- _____ 8. The French-Indian War was started because
- A. Settlers were moving west
 - B. The British were using the Indians as spies
 - C. The French and Indians hated each other
 - D. Natives killed British Soldiers
- _____ 9. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
- A. Set up the US Government
 - B. Freed the Slaves
 - C. Told the King of England the US is free
 - D. Nothing
- _____ 10. What was one reason the colonists wanted to break away from England?
- A. Getting taxed but did not have representation in the British Government
 - B. British soldiers were killing colonists
 - C. The King wanted to restrict what religions the colonists could practice
 - D. The Colonists wanted to be part of France
- _____ 11. Which future US President was the head of the colonial army?
- A. John Adams
 - B. Benjamin Franklin
 - C. Abraham Lincoln
 - D. George Washington
- _____ 12. What was the name of the winter Encampment where the Colonial Army was really made?
- A. Valley Forge
 - B. Bunker Hill
 - C. Trenton
 - D. Shiloh
- _____ 13. What is the name of the document that established the current United States' Government?
- A. Declaration of Independence
 - B. Articles of Confederation
 - C. Constitution
 - D. Common Sense
- _____ 14. Why did the South need so many slaves?
- A. To work on Plantations (Farms)
 - B. Needed more people
 - C. To fight in the army
 - D. To work in factories
- _____ 15. Who did the US buy the territory of Louisiana from?
- A. China
 - B. Mexico
 - C. England
 - D. France
- _____ 16. What are the names of the two explorers Jefferson sent to explore the Louisiana Purchase?
- A. Hatfield and McCoy
 - B. Johnson and Johnson
 - C. Lewis and Clark
 - D. Bert and Ernie

- _____ 17. Which future US President was the “hero” of the battle of New Orleans?
- A. Abraham Lincoln
 - B. Andrew Jackson
 - C. Theodore Roosevelt
 - D. Franklin Roosevelt
- _____ 18. What did the Indian Relocation Act do?
- A. Removed the Native from the land east of the Mississippi
 - B. Moved American Indians to “Reservations”
 - C. Placed American Indians in Special Schools
 - D. Nothing, it was never passed
- _____ 19. What event in 1849 led to a mass migration of people to California?
- A. Oil was discovered
 - B. Defeat of the Spanish Armada
 - C. Transcontinental Railroad opened
 - D. Gold was discovered
- _____ 20. What was “Manifest Destiny”?
- A. Belief the US should reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific
 - B. The US belief they were the most powerful nation in the world
 - C. It was the United States’ job to control the western hemisphere
 - D. The belief the US should reach from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico
- _____ 21. What major issue eventually led to the start of the Civil War?
- A. Slavery
 - B. The north wanted more land
 - C. The south wanted more land
 - D. Immigration
- _____ 22. What famous battle was the turning point of the Civil War? (Meaning: South was basically finished)
- A. Antietam
 - B. First Battle of Bull Run
 - C. Shiloh
 - D. Gettysburg
- _____ 23. What important event was happening in the west at the same time as the Civil War?
- A. Missouri Compromise
 - B. Mexican-American War
 - C. Dakota Conflict
 - D. Spanish-American War
- _____ 24. What was the importance of the “Emancipation Proclamation”?
- A. Made for a peaceful reunification of the North and South
 - B. Started freeing the Slaves
 - C. Declared the US Independence from France
 - D. Bought over 30 million acres of land

- _____ 25. The United States bought the land that now is Alaska from what European power?
- A. England
 - B. France
 - C. Russia
 - D. Canada
- _____ 26. Which state in the United States was actually a Kingdom at one point?
- A. Minnesota
 - B. Hawaii
 - C. Alaska
 - D. Florida
- _____ 27. Why did the US want to remove Spain from Central and South America?
- A. USA did not want Europeans in Western Hemisphere
 - B. Spain was too strong and the USA was afraid of them
 - C. The US wanted to control all the lands Spain owned
 - D. Spain had attacked the US many times
- _____ 28. What instrument did the United States use to make sure countries did what the US wanted in the late 19th Century, Early 20th Century?
- A. Nuclear Weapons
 - B. A very large land army
 - C. The "Great White Fleet"
 - D. Powerful Alliances
- _____ 29. Why didn't the US want to get involved in World War I?
- A. It was "Europe's Problem," not North America's
 - B. Many recent German immigrants did not want to fight their old country
 - C. The US could not gain anything
 - D. All of the Above
 - E. None of the Above
- _____ 30. What event finally made the US join the war to help the Allies in World War I?
- A. Sinking of the Titanic
 - B. Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
 - C. Sinking of the U.S.S. Maine
 - D. Sinking of the Lusitania
- _____ 31. Why didn't Wilson's 14 points of peace get accepted at Versailles?
- A. Allies wanted to punish Germany
 - B. It was poorly written
 - C. The US lost the War
 - D. It was "too mean" to Germany
- _____ 32. What is the name for the event that started the Great Depression in the United States?
- A. Black Sabbath
 - B. Red October
 - C. Green Day
 - D. Black Friday

- _____ 33. What is the term for Roosevelt's plan to end the Great Depression?
- A. Recession Over
 - B. New Deal
 - C. Black Friday
 - D. CCCP
- _____ 34. What event would completely end the Great Depression in the United States?
- A. United States' entry into World War 2
 - B. Slowly the recession just went away
 - C. The banks finally opening again
 - D. the US got a large loan from Germany
- _____ 35. Why didn't the US get Involved in World War 2?
- A. Did not want to be part of another "European War"
 - B. US was too weak to fight
 - C. No one wanted their help
 - D. None of the Above
- _____ 36. What event finally got the US involved in World War 2?
- A. Sinking of the Lusitania
 - B. Germany's Invasion of Poland
 - C. Battle of Britain
 - D. Pearl Harbor
- _____ 37. What is the name of the US strategy in the Pacific Theater during World War 2?
- A. "Scorched Earth"
 - B. "Soft Underbelly"
 - C. "Island Hopping"
 - D. "Cut off...Move On"
- _____ 38. What two Japanese cities did the United States drop atomic bombs on to end the war?
- A. Edo and Kyoto
 - B. Okinawa and Osaka
 - C. Tokyo and Misawa
 - D. Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- _____ 39. Why is the Korean War known as the "Forgotten War"?
- A. No one knows about it
 - B. It is between two large wars
 - C. It was not important
 - D. It was too short to be a war.
- _____ 40. Which country(s) did the United States fight in the Korean War?
- A. South Korea
 - B. China
 - C. North Korea
 - D. All of the Above
 - E. A & B But not C
 - F. B & C But not A
- _____ 41. What is the name of the failed attempt to overthrow Communist Cuba?
- A. Sputnik
 - B. Tonkin Gulf
 - C. Bay of Pigs
 - D. Havana Bay

- _____ 42. What is the name of the event that almost lead to a nuclear war in October 1962?
- A. Presidential Assassination
 - B. Vietnam War
 - C. Bay of Pigs
 - D. Cuban Missile Crisis
- _____ 43. What President was assassinated in a car in Dallas, Texas?
- A. Ronald Reagan
 - B. Abraham Lincoln
 - C. Grover Cleveland
 - D. John F. Kennedy
- _____ 44. Who was the United States mostly afraid of going to war with during the "Cold War"?
- A. The USSR
 - B. France
 - C. China
 - D. Germany
- _____ 45. Why was it called a "Cold War"
- A. The two countries are very cold
 - B. There was no actual fighting
 - C. All the fighting was in winter
 - D. They were fighting over the Arctic Circle
- _____ 46. What American agency was secretly fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan?
- A. FBI
 - B. Secret Service
 - C. Department of Homeland Security
 - D. CIA
- _____ 47. What organization was the USA part of to counter the powerful USSR?
- A. United Nations
 - B. NATO
 - C. NAFTA
 - D. CONCAF
- _____ 48. Why did the USSR collapse and the US did not?
- A. The USSR could not afford the Arms Race
 - B. The USA Government was stronger
 - C. The USSR could not control its people
 - D. None of the Above
- _____ 49. Why did the US fight Iraq in the early 1990s?
- A. The US needed Oil
 - B. To help Kuwait
 - C. Saddam Hussein tried to assassinated President Bush
 - D. Saddam attacked British troops there
- _____ 50. Which event happened on September 11, 2001
- A. Stock Market Crash
 - B. Soviet Union Collapsed
 - C. US Invaded Iraq again
 - D. Taliban attacked the US