

American History Essentials

American History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which document was signed in 1776 to formally declare the colonies' independence from Great Britain?

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

2. Who served as the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?

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

3. What was the main purpose of the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

- A) To establish trade with Canada
- B) To explore the Louisiana Territory**
- C) To locate gold in California
- D) To negotiate peace with Mexico

4. The 1863 Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for enslaved people in which areas?

- A) The entire United States
- B) Only the border states
- C) States in rebellion against the Union**
- D) The Western territories

5. Which battle is considered the turning point of the American Civil War?

- A) Battle of Gettysburg**
- B) Battle of Antietam
- C) Battle of Bull Run
- D) Battle of Shiloh

6. What term refers to the period of rebuilding the South after the Civil War?

- A) The Industrial Revolution
- B) The Great Awakening
- C) Reconstruction**
- D) The Gilded Age

7. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote?

- A) 13th Amendment
- B) 15th Amendment
- C) 19th Amendment**
- D) 21st Amendment

8. What was the primary goal of the Underground Railroad?

- A) To build transcontinental railroads
- B) To transport supplies to the frontier
- C) To help enslaved people escape to the North**
- D) To move settlers to the West

9. Which invention by Eli Whitney significantly increased the production of cotton in the South?

- A) The Steam Engine
- B) The Cotton Gin**
- C) The Telegraph
- D) The Power Loom

10. What was the significance of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase?

- A) It ended the War of 1812
- B) It doubled the size of the United States**
- C) It established the state of Florida
- D) It created the first national bank

11. Which U.S. President was responsible for the New Deal programs during the Great Depression?

- A) Herbert Hoover
- B) Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- C) Harry Truman
- D) Dwight Eisenhower

12. What event triggered the official entry of the United States into World War II?

- A) The invasion of Poland
- B) The bombing of Pearl Harbor**
- C) The sinking of the Lusitania
- D) The Battle of Britain

13. Who was the leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and a prominent civil rights activist?

- A) Malcolm X
- B) Thurgood Marshall
- C) Martin Luther King Jr.**
- D) John Lewis

14. Which colony was founded by the Pilgrims in 1620?

- A) Jamestown
- B) Plymouth**
- C) Massachusetts Bay
- D) Roanoke

15. What was the 'Trail of Tears' a result of?

- A) The Gold Rush
- B) Indian Removal Act**
- C) The War of 1812
- D) Expansion into Oregon

16. Which war was fought between the U.S. and Mexico from 1846 to 1848?

- A) The Spanish-American War
- B) The Mexican-American War**
- C) The Texas Revolution
- D) The Seven Years' War

17. What are the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution collectively known as?

- A) The Preamble
- B) The Articles of Confederation
- C) The Bill of Rights**
- D) The Federalist Papers

18. What was the name of the legislative act that gave settlers 160 acres of public land for a small fee?

- A) The Homestead Act**
- B) The Dawes Act
- C) The Missouri Compromise
- D) The Northwest Ordinance