

Ancient and European Encounters with the Pinnacles Desert

History · Practice Test · 19 Questions

1. Which Aboriginal language group lived in the area of the Pinnacles Desert?

- A) Wajuk
- B) Balardung
- C) Yued
- D) Amangu

2. What guided the life of the Yued people in relation to the seasons?

- A) Four seasons
- B) Six seasons
- C) Two seasons
- D) Seasonal migration patterns

3. During the dry, hot late summer and early autumn (bunuru), where did people travel for resources?

- A) Inland rivers
- B) Mountain ranges
- C) The coast and nearby lakes/swamps
- D) Dense forests

4. What did the Yued people find at the coast and nearby lakes/swamps during bunuru?

- A) Minerals and gemstones
- B) Fish, freshwater, tortoises, waterbirds, and shellfish
- C) Timber for building
- D) New hunting grounds

5. In which modern towns do descendants of the old people live?

- A) Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane
- B) Perth, Moora, Geraldton
- C) Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin
- D) Cairns, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast

6. What was the Noongar name for the Pinnacles Desert, and why?

- A) Weriniti Devil place, due to sinking sands
- B) Kalaamaya Sands, due to the vastness
- C) Amangu Coast, due to its proximity to the sea
- D) Balardung Hills, due to the rock formations

7. According to the Yued elder's story, what do the pinnacles represent?

- A) Ancient burial sites
- B) Fingertips of young men who vanished into the sand
- C) Remnants of a meteorite impact
- D) Natural formations shaped by wind

8. How old are the wells, like the one mentioned in the text, that served as cultural sites for Aboriginal people?

- A) Less than 1000 years
- B) More than 6000 years
- C) Around 2000 years
- D) Less than 500 years

9. Around what time did the earliest European recordings of the Nambung area date from?

- A) 1700s
- B) 1800s
- C) Early 1600s
- D) Late 1600s

10. What was the primary motivation for Dutch expeditions venturing into the uncharted waters off western Australia in the early 1600s?

- A) To find gold deposits
- B) To establish agricultural settlements
- C) To search for new trade routes and survivors of earlier expeditions
- D) To map whale migration paths

11. What was the name of the ship from which 'poor souls' were believed to be lost, prompting a rescue mission in 1658?

- A) The Golden Hind
- B) The Vergulde Draeck (gilt dragon)
- C) The Endeavour
- D) The Batavia

12. Which Dutch explorer sailed in 1696 to investigate the loss of ships and chart Australia's south-west coast?

- A) Samuel Volkersen
- B) Aucke Pieters Jonck
- C) Willem de Vlamingh
- D) Abel Tasman

13. What did Willem de Vlamingh produce after sailing north to Dirk Hartog Island?

- A) The first detailed map of the Australian interior
- B) The first accurate European map of the coast from Jurien to south of Cervantes
- C) A comprehensive study of Aboriginal languages
- D) A treatise on the continent's unique flora and fauna

14. What symptoms did Samuel Volkersen's sailors begin to suffer from, as recorded in his journal?

- A) Fever and chills
- B) Sickness and sore eyes
- C) Dehydration and heatstroke
- D) Nausea and seasickness

15. What did the Dutch explorers notice on the sand dunes inland, despite not seeing any people directly?

- A) Evidence of ancient settlements
- B) Animal tracks and some footprints of people
- C) Remains of shipwrecks
- D) Unusual rock formations

16. What was observed in the evening along the coast by the Dutch explorers?

- A) Large gatherings of Aboriginal people
- B) Fires in various places as far as the eye could reach
- C) The arrival of other European ships
- D) Unusual marine life

17. What were the two distinct hills near the pinnacles noted on Dutch charts called?

- A) North and South hummocks
- B) Pinnacle Peaks
- C) Devil's Horns
- D) Sandy Ridges

18. What might have happened to the pinnacles themselves, preventing their discovery by early Dutch newcomers?

- A) They were deliberately hidden
- B) They were buried under slowly shifting dunes
- C) They were eroded by the sea
- D) They were covered by dense vegetation

19. The expedition led by Samuel Volkersen and Aucke Pieters Jonck in 1658 set sail from which location?

- A) Amsterdam
- B) Batavia (present-day Jakarta)
- C) Cape Town
- D) Lisbon