

History of Global Exploration

History And Geography · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which explorer led the first expedition to successfully circumnavigate the globe, though he died in the Philippines before its completion?

- A) Vasco da Gama
- B) Ferdinand Magellan**
- C) Francis Drake
- D) Amerigo Vespucci

2. In 1911, which explorer's team reached the geographic South Pole exactly 34 days after Roald Amundsen's team?

- A) Ernest Shackleton
- B) Robert Falcon Scott**
- C) Douglas Mawson
- D) Edmund Hillary

3. What was the primary navigational challenge that prevented European explorers from accurately calculating longitude while at sea until the mid-18th century?

- A) Lack of sextants
- B) Earth's magnetic variance
- C) Inability to keep precise time**
- D) Inaccurate star charts

4. The Northwest Passage, a sea route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was first fully navigated by which explorer between 1903 and 1906?

- A) John Franklin
- B) Roald Amundsen**
- C) James Cook
- D) Henry Hudson

5. What is the name of the narrow strait between Russia and Alaska that Vitus Bering explored in the 18th century?

- A) Bering Strait**
- B) Denmark Strait
- C) Davis Strait
- D) Torres Strait

6. Which 14th-century Moroccan scholar is famous for documenting his travels across the Islamic world, spanning over 117,000 kilometers?

- A) Zheng He
- B) Ibn Battuta**
- C) Marco Polo
- D) Al-Idrisi

7. During the 15th century, the Ming Dynasty admiral Zheng He led seven major maritime expeditions to which region?

- A) The Americas
- B) The Indian Ocean**
- C) The Arctic Ocean
- D) The Mediterranean Sea

8. Which British explorer led the HMS Endeavour on a voyage to observe the 1769 transit of Venus and map the coastline of New Zealand?

- A) Matthew Flinders
- B) James Cook**
- C) William Bligh
- D) George Vancouver

9. In 1953, who were the first confirmed individuals to reach the summit of Mount Everest?

- A) Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler
- B) Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay**
- C) George Mallory and Andrew Irvine
- D) Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal

10. The 'Great Trigonometrical Survey' of India, aimed at measuring the Indian subcontinent, was instrumental in calculating the height of which mountain?

- A) K2
- B) Mount Everest**
- C) Kangchenjunga
- D) Nanga Parbat

11. Which explorer's 1804-1806 expedition across North America was commissioned by Thomas Jefferson to find a practical water route to the Pacific?

- A) Zebulon Pike
- B) Lewis and Clark**
- C) John C. Frémont
- D) Jedediah Smith

12. What was the primary goal of the 17th-century 'Dutch East India Company' voyages to the region then known as 'New Holland'?

- A) Colonizing the interior
- B) Establishing trade routes
- C) Mapping the Great Barrier Reef
- D) Searching for the Southern Continent**

13. Which female explorer and writer is noted for her extensive travels through the Middle East in the early 20th century, including the mapping of the Nefud Desert?

- A) Gertrude Bell**
- B) Mary Kingsley
- C) Isabella Bird
- D) Freya Stark

14. The Astrolabe, a critical tool for early explorers, was primarily used for which purpose?

- A) Measuring latitude by observing celestial bodies**
- B) Determining compass heading
- C) Calculating speed over ground
- D) Mapping underwater topography

15. Which 19th-century explorer is credited with being the first European to see Lake Victoria and identifying it as the source of the Nile?

- A) David Livingstone
- B) John Hanning Speke**
- C) Henry Morton Stanley
- D) Richard Burton

16. What was the 'Line of Demarcation' established by the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas intended to divide?

- A) Trade routes between Britain and France
- B) Territorial claims between Spain and Portugal**
- C) Religious jurisdictions in the New World
- D) Naval boundaries in the Pacific

17. Which expedition was the first to cross the Antarctic continent via the South Pole, led by Vivian Fuchs and Edmund Hillary in 1958?

- A) The Heroic Age Expedition
- B) The Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition**
- C) The International Geophysical Year Expedition
- D) The Endurance Expedition

18. What is the 'Prime Meridian', established in 1884 to standardize global timekeeping and navigation, located at?

A) Paris, France

B) Greenwich, United Kingdom

C) Washington D.C., USA

D) Cairo, Egypt

19. In 1926, which explorer claimed to have reached the North Pole by airship, though his claim is subject to historical dispute?

A) Richard E. Byrd

B) Roald Amundsen

C) Robert Peary

D) Frederick Cook

20. The 'Terra Australis Incognita' was a hypothetical continent long sought by explorers before the confirmed European discovery of which landmass?

A) Antarctica

B) Australia

C) Madagascar

D) New Zealand