

Explorers and Great Expeditions

History And Geography · Answer Key · 18 Questions

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

- A) Ferdinand Magellan**
- B) Vasco da Gama
- C) James Cook
- D) Christopher Columbus

2. In 1911, which Norwegian explorer became the first person to reach the geographic South Pole?

- A) Ernest Shackleton
- B) Robert Falcon Scott
- C) Roald Amundsen**
- D) Edmund Hillary

3. Which mountain range did the explorer Burke and Wills attempt to cross during their ill-fated 1860-1861 expedition across Australia?

- A) The Blue Mountains
- B) The Snowy Mountains
- C) The Flinders Ranges
- D) The Great Dividing Range**

4. Which European explorer was the first to document the existence of the Great Barrier Reef during his 1770 voyage?

- A) Matthew Flinders
- B) James Cook**
- C) William Dampier
- D) Abel Tasman

5. What was the primary objective of the Lewis and Clark expedition commissioned by Thomas Jefferson in 1804?

- A) To discover gold in California
- B) To map the newly acquired Louisiana Territory**
- C) To reach the Arctic Circle
- D) To establish trade with Japan

6. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, setting a record for adventure and aviation?

- A) Bessie Coleman
- B) Amelia Earhart**
- C) Jacqueline Cochran
- D) Sally Ride

7. Which explorer is credited with being the first European to sight the Pacific Ocean after crossing the Isthmus of Panama?

- A) Vasco Núñez de Balboa**
- B) Hernán Cortés
- C) Francisco Pizarro
- D) Juan Ponce de León

8. The 'Endeavour' was the ship used by which famous explorer to chart the east coast of Australia?

- A) Matthew Flinders
- B) James Cook**
- C) Louis de Bougainville
- D) Dirk Hartog

9. Which explorer reached the North Pole in 1909, though his claim remains a subject of historical debate?

- A) Robert Peary**
- B) Richard Byrd
- C) Roald Amundsen
- D) John Franklin

10. Which ancient civilization was known for their exploration of the Mediterranean Sea using advanced ship-building techniques?

- A) The Phoenicians**
- B) The Sumerians
- C) The Babylonians
- D) The Hittites

11. In 1953, who were the first two individuals confirmed to have reached 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

12. Which explorer was the first to navigate the entire length of the Amazon River in 1541?

A) Francisco de Orellana

B) Pedro Álvares Cabral

C) Amerigo Vespucci

D) Hernando de Soto

13. Which continent was the primary focus of the 19th-century explorations conducted by David Livingstone?

A) South America

B) Australia

C) Africa

D) Asia

14. The first successful expedition to traverse the Antarctic continent on foot was led by whom in 1958?

A) Ernest Shackleton

B) Douglas Mawson

C) Vivian Fuchs

D) Robert Falcon Scott

15. Who was the Chinese explorer who led seven maritime expeditions across the Indian Ocean during the Ming Dynasty?

A) Zheng He

B) Kublai Khan

C) Marco Polo

D) Genghis Khan

16. What is the name of the strait located at the southern tip of South America that Magellan navigated in 1520?

A) Strait of Gibraltar

B) Strait of Hormuz

C) Strait of Magellan

D) Bering Strait

17. Which explorer's journals provided the first major European account of the natural history of the Galápagos Islands?

A) Charles Darwin

B) Alexander von Humboldt

C) Alfred Russel Wallace

D) Captain Robert FitzRoy

18. Who was the first person to travel into outer space in 1961, an exploration achievement beyond Earth's atmosphere?

- A) John Glenn
- B) Alan Shepard
- C) Yuri Gagarin**
- D) Neil Armstrong