

Explorers and Great Expeditions

History And Geography · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which Portuguese explorer was the first European to reach India by sea, sailing around the Cape of Good Hope?

- A) Vasco da Gama**
- B) Ferdinand Magellan
- C) Bartolomeu Dias
- D) Amerigo Vespucci

2. In what year did Roald Amundsen and his team become the first to reach the South Pole?

- A) 1905
- B) 1911**
- C) 1914
- D) 1920

3. Which explorer led the first expedition to circumnavigate the globe, although he died in the Philippines during the voyage?

- A) James Cook
- B) Christopher Columbus
- C) Ferdinand Magellan**
- D) Sir Francis Drake

4. What was the primary goal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition commissioned by Thomas Jefferson?

- A) To map the Northwest Passage
- B) To explore the Louisiana Purchase**
- C) To find gold in California
- D) To establish trade with Russia

5. Which mountain climber, along with Tenzing Norgay, was the first confirmed person to reach the summit of Mount Everest?

- A) Edmund Hillary**
- B) Reinhold Messner
- C) George Mallory
- D) Ernest Shackleton

6. Which explorer was responsible for the mapping of the east coast of Australia and the discovery of the Great Barrier Reef?

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

7. What is the name of the strait that separates Russia and Alaska, named after the explorer who mapped it?

- A) Magellan Strait
- B) Bering Strait**
- C) Bass Strait
- D) Gibraltar Strait

8. Which Italian explorer's accounts of his travels to China (Cathay) inspired many later European explorers to seek a route to Asia?

- A) Marco Polo**
- B) John Cabot
- C) Giovanni da Verrazzano
- D) Amerigo Vespucci

9. What was the name of the ship used by Ernest Shackleton during his ill-fated 1914 expedition to Antarctica?

- A) Discovery
- B) Terra Nova
- C) Endurance**
- D) Fram

10. Which explorer completed the first solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927?

- A) Charles Lindbergh**
- B) Amelia Earhart
- C) Richard Byrd
- D) Howard Hughes

11. Which civilization did the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés overthrow in the early 16th century?

- A) Inca
- B) Maya
- C) Aztec**
- D) Olmec

12. What is the name of the desert in Mongolia and China that was crossed by many Silk Road explorers?

- A) Sahara
- B) Gobi**
- C) Kalahari
- D) Atacama

13. Which explorer reached the North Pole in 1909, a claim that was later subject to debate?

- A) Robert Peary**
- B) Matthew Henson
- C) Richard Byrd
- D) Roald Amundsen

14. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?

- A) Bessie Coleman
- B) Amelia Earhart**
- C) Harriet Quimby
- D) Jacqueline Cochran

15. In 1642, which Dutch explorer became the first European to reach Tasmania and New Zealand?

- A) Abel Tasman**
- B) Willem Janszoon
- C) Dirk Hartog
- D) Louis de Bougainville

16. Which English explorer was sent by Queen Elizabeth I to circumnavigate the globe and plunder Spanish ports?

- A) Walter Raleigh
- B) Francis Drake**
- C) John Hawkins
- D) Martin Frobisher

17. What was the primary motivation for early European explorers to search for a 'Northwest Passage'?

- A) To find new land for farming
- B) To establish a faster trade route to Asia**
- C) To map the Arctic climate
- D) To escape political persecution

18. Which explorer discovered the St. Lawrence River and claimed the region for France?

A) Samuel de Champlain

B) Jacques Cartier

C) René-Robert Cavelier

D) Louis Joliet

19. What island group did Charles Darwin visit during his voyage on the HMS Beagle, which inspired his theory of evolution?

A) Galápagos Islands

B) Azores

C) Canary Islands

D) Fiji

20. Which explorer led the expedition that first navigated the entire length of the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon?

A) John Wesley Powell

B) Zebulon Pike

C) Jedediah Smith

D) Jim Bridger