

Explorers and Great Expeditions

History And Geography · Practice Test · 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