

American History: Geography and Global Context

American History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which river served as the western boundary of the United States following the Treaty of Paris in 1783?

- A) Mississippi River**
- B) Ohio River
- C) Missouri River
- D) Rio Grande

2. The 1803 Louisiana Purchase was acquired from which European nation?

- A) Spain
- B) Great Britain
- C) France**
- D) Portugal

3. In 1867, the United States purchased the territory of Alaska from which country?

- A) Canada
- B) Norway
- C) Sweden
- D) Russia**

4. Which mountain range acted as the primary barrier for westward expansion during the early colonial period?

- A) Sierra Nevada
- B) Appalachian Mountains**
- C) Rocky Mountains
- D) Cascade Range

5. The Gadsden Purchase of 1853, which acquired land for a southern transcontinental railroad, was bought from which country?

- A) Mexico**
- B) Cuba
- C) Guatemala
- D) Honduras

6. The 'Oregon Trail' ended in which present-day U.S. state?

- A) Washington
- B) California
- C) Oregon**
- D) Idaho

7. Which island nation became a U.S. territory following the Spanish-American War in 1898?

A) Jamaica

B) Puerto Rico

C) Haiti

D) Bahamas

8. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 organized the territory that would eventually become which region of the United States?

A) The Deep South

B) The Great Plains

C) The Midwest

D) The Pacific Northwest

9. Which city served as the first capital of the United States under the U.S. Constitution?

A) Philadelphia

B) Washington, D.C.

C) New York City

D) Boston

10. The boundary dispute that led to the slogan '54-40 or Fight!' concerned the border of which territory?

A) Texas

B) California

C) Florida

D) Oregon

11. Which body of water was the primary supply route for the Union 'Anaconda Plan' during the American Civil War?

A) Mississippi River

B) Great Lakes

C) Chesapeake Bay

D) Gulf of Mexico

12. Which U.S. state was once an independent republic before its annexation in 1845?

A) California

B) Texas

C) Hawaii

D) Vermont

13. In 1898, the United States annexed which Pacific archipelago, later becoming the 50th state?

- A) Fiji
- B) Guam
- C) Hawaii**
- D) Samoa

14. The Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 resulted in the United States acquiring which territory from Spain?

- A) Florida**
- B) Arizona
- C) New Mexico
- D) Colorado

15. Which strait separates Alaska from the easternmost point of Russia?

- A) Davis Strait
- B) Bering Strait**
- C) Hudson Strait
- D) Florida Strait