Historical Milestones in Botany and Nature

History Of Botany · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which plant was famously used as the primary source of yellow dye for the robes of Buddhist monks in ancient times?

A) Saffron
B) Turmeric
C) Indigo
D) Madder

2. In 1637, the Dutch economy was destabilized by a speculative bubble involving the bulbs of which flower?

A) Tulip
B) Hyacinth
C) Daffodil
D) Crocus

3. Which explorer brought the potato to Europe from the Americas in the late 16th century?

A) Christopher Columbus
B) Sir Walter Raleigh
C) Ferdinand Magellan
D) Amerigo Vespucci

4. What is the name of the Swedish botanist who formalized the modern system of binomial nomenclature in the 18th century?

A) Charles Darwin
B) Gregor Mendel
C) Carl Linnaeus
D) Joseph Banks

5. The 'Great Famine' in Ireland during the 1840s was primarily caused by the failure of which crop?

A) Wheat
B) Barley
C) Potato
D) Rye

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6. Which plant, native to the Amazon, was used by indigenous peoples for centuries before being processed into rubber for the industrial revolution?

A) Hevea brasiliensis
B) Quinine
C) Cinchona
D) Coca

7. What species of tree was found to be the 'living fossil' discovered in a remote valley in Australia in 1994?

A) Eucalyptus
B) Wollemi Pine
C) Banksia
D) Jarrah

8. Which spice, historically controlled by the Dutch East India Company through a monopoly on the Banda Islands, is derived from the Myristica fragrans tree?

A) Cinnamon
B) Cloves
C) Nutmeg
D) Black Pepper

9. During the 19th century, the British Empire established major tea plantations in India primarily to break the monopoly of which country?

A) China
B) Japan
C) Vietnam
D) Thailand

10. The 1859 publication of 'On the Origin of Species' relied heavily on observations of plant and animal variations; who was the author?

A) Alfred Russel Wallace
B) Jean-Baptiste Lamarck
C) Charles Darwin
D) Thomas Malthus

11. Which fruit was first successfully transported in a refrigerated ship from Australia to London in 1880?

A) Apples
B) Bananas
C) Oranges
D) Grapes

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12. The 'Breadfruit' was the object of a famous 1787 expedition on the HMS Bounty; who was the captain of that vessel?

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

13. Which flowering plant's extract was discovered by William Withering in 1785 to be an effective treatment for dropsy (heart failure)?

A) Foxglove
B) Lavender
C) Poppy
D) Belladonna

14. In 1912, Alfred Wegener used the fossil evidence of which extinct seed fern to support his theory of continental drift?

A) Ginkgo
B) Glossopteris
C) Cycas
D) Welwitschia

15. Which plant was the primary source of the 'quinine' that allowed Europeans to survive in malaria-prone regions of Africa and Asia?

A) Cinchona bark
B) Willow bark
C) Eucalyptus oil
D) Tea leaf

16. What ancient civilization is credited with being the first to cultivate roses for medicinal and ornamental purposes?

A) Sumerians
B) Ancient Egyptians
C) Ancient Persians
D) Ancient Greeks

17. The 'Vavilov Centers' refer to the geographical locations identified by Nikolai Vavilov as the primary origins of what?

A) Cultivated crops
B) Invasive species
C) Desert plants
D) Fungi

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18. Which Australian plant was first collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander at Botany Bay in 1770?

A) Wattle
B) Banksia
C) Waratah
D) Eucalyptus

19. In 1943, what did George Washington Carver famously promote as a crop to help Southern farmers in the US restore nitrogen to the soil?

A) Cotton
B) Tobacco
C) Peanut
D) Corn

20. What is the oldest known seed-bearing plant group, which has remained largely unchanged for over 200 million years?

A) Ferns
B) Cycads
C) Mosses
D) Grasses

21. The 'Green Revolution' of the mid-20th century, which significantly increased world food production, was led by which agricultural scientist?

A) Norman Borlaug
B) Rachel Carson
C) Luther Burbank
D) Gregor Mendel

22. Which plant, native to the Andes, became the focus of a massive global industry due to its role in the production of cocaine?

A) Erythroxylum coca
B) Nicotiana tabacum
C) Coffea arabica
D) Theobroma cacao

23. What century saw the establishment of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London?

A) 16th
B) 17th
C) 18th
D) 19th

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24. Which invasive plant species was introduced to Australia in 1788 and eventually covered vast areas of the continent due to lack of natural predators?

A) Prickly Pear
B) Lantana
C) Blackberry
D) Gorse

25. What is the historical name for the international trade network that transported plants like coffee, sugar, and tobacco between continents?

A) Silk Road
B) Columbian Exchange
C) Spice Route
D) Trans-Saharan Trade

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