Historical Interactions with Nature and Animals

World History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which animal was primarily responsible for the rapid spread of the Black Death across Europe in the 14th century via its flea-borne bacteria?

A) Rat
B) Horse
C) Cow
D) Pig

2. During the 17th century, the Dutch East India Company drove the flightless Dodo bird to extinction on which island?

A) Madagascar
B) Mauritius
C) Java
D) Sumatra

3. The 'Great Emu War' of 1932 was a nuisance wildlife management military operation carried out in which country?

A) New Zealand
B) South Africa
C) Australia
D) Argentina

4. Which ancient civilization worshipped the cat-headed goddess Bastet and held felines in high esteem?

A) Ancient Greece
B) Ancient Rome
C) Ancient Egypt
D) Ancient Mesopotamia

5. In the 19th century, the American Bison population was reduced from tens of millions to a few hundred, largely due to:

A) A massive wildfire
B) Intentional government-backed extermination
C) An invasive locust plague
D) Severe volcanic cooling

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6. What substance, extracted from the blubber of whales, was the primary fuel for oil lamps and industrial lubrication in the 18th and 19th centuries?

A) Spermaceti
B) Ambergris
C) Crude petroleum
D) Palm oil

7. Which historical leader famously used war elephants during the Second Punic War to cross the Alps and attack Rome?

A) Alexander the Great
B) Hannibal Barca
C) Julius Caesar
D) Attila the Hun

8. The 1883 eruption of which volcano caused a global drop in temperatures and colored sunsets vivid red for years?

A) Vesuvius
B) Mount Fuji
C) Krakatoa
D) Mount Saint Helens

9. What species of bird, once the most numerous in North America, went extinct in 1914 due to commercial hunting and habitat loss?

A) California Condor
B) Passenger Pigeon
C) Carolina Parakeet
D) Ivory-billed Woodpecker

10. In the 13th century, the Mongol Empire utilized what animal for high-speed communication across their vast postal system (Yam)?

A) Camel
B) Donkey
C) Horse
D) Reindeer

11. Which pandemic in the 19th century originated in the Ganges Delta and spread globally via contaminated water supplies?

A) Cholera
B) Smallpox
C) Yellow Fever
D) Plague

12. The 'Little Ice Age' (c. 1300-1850) caused the failure of which major crop in Europe, leading to widespread famine?

A) Rice
B) Wheat
C) Maize
D) Potato

13. During World War I, what animal was used by the military to carry urgent messages across front lines, earning several medals?

A) Carrier Pigeon
B) Camel
C) Stray Dog
D) Goat

14. The accidental introduction of which species to Australia in 1859 caused widespread environmental destruction to crops and native habitats?

A) Red Fox
B) European Rabbit
C) Cane Toad
D) Feral Pig

15. Which explorer's 16th-century voyage was the first to identify the unique fauna of the Galápagos Islands, later crucial to evolutionary theory?

A) Ferdinand Magellan
B) Tomás de Berlanga
C) James Cook
D) Amerigo Vespucci

16. What natural resource, mined in the Potosí silver mines of colonial Bolivia, caused significant environmental damage through mercury contamination?

A) Gold
B) Silver
C) Coal
D) Copper

17. The 'Great Stink' of 1858 in London, caused by the pollution of which river, led to the development of modern sewage systems?

A) Seine
B) Thames
C) Danube
D) Rhine

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18. Which civilization developed complex 'chinampas' or floating gardens to maximize agricultural output in a lake-based environment?

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

19. The extinction of the Moa, a giant flightless bird, occurred following the human colonization of which country?

A) Madagascar
B) New Zealand
C) Iceland
D) Ireland

20. In the 19th century, the 'Guano Islands Act' was passed by the United States to claim islands rich in what material for fertilizer?

A) Bird excrement
B) Volcanic ash
C) Phosphorus rock
D) Crushed shells

21. Which animal was intentionally introduced to the Caribbean in the 18th century to control rodent populations, but became an invasive pest instead?

A) Mongoose
B) House Cat
C) Rat Snake
D) Ferret

22. The historical collapse of the Maya civilization is often associated with a prolonged period of what environmental phenomenon?

A) Megadrought
B) Super-flooding
C) Glaciation
D) Forest fires

23. What plant was the primary driver of the 'Triangular Trade' and plantation slavery in the Americas?

A) Tobacco
B) Sugar Cane
C) Coffee
D) Indigo

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24. The 1930s 'Dust Bowl' in the United States was caused by a combination of severe drought and:

A) Poor land management practices
B) Invasive insect species
C) Volcanic activity
D) Earthquakes

25. Which medieval conflict was exacerbated by the 'Great Famine' of 1315-1317, which was triggered by extreme, multi-year rainfall?

A) Crusades
B) Hundred Years' War
C) War of the Roses
D) Reconquista

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