

Native Americans

1. What were the life patterns of the Sioux, before and after the advent of the white man?
2. Who treated the Native Americans better, the Spanish or the English? Compare and contrast the treatment.
3. What were the effects of Spanish missions on Native American cultures?
4. How are the origin myths of the Navajo similar to those of Christianity?
5. Under what circumstances did whites break treaties with Native American tribes?
6. What were the traditional Native American attitudes toward the environment?
7. How does the true story of Pocahontas differ from the popular version?
8. What was the impact of the railroad on Native American/white relations on the American plains?

Planting English Colonies 1600–1750

9. What happened to the Roanoke colony?
10. What was the Jamestown settlers' greatest challenge?
11. How did indentured servants affect the development of the colonies?
12. What is the most significant difference between the Puritans and Pilgrims.
13. What lasting effects did the Puritan beliefs and attitudes have on the United States?
14. What were some of the common practices of early American slave traders?
15. How did tobacco alter the course of American colonial history?
16. Were the "witches of Salem" unjustly convicted?
17. What was the role of women in the colonial society?
18. What was education like in the colonies?
19. What was medical care like in the colonies?
20. What was the religious composition of the American colonies? What circumstances account for the diversity?
21. What was the most common sport in colonial America? Describe it.
22. Which came first in America – discrimination or slavery?

Years of Conflict 1754–1774

23. Was the Boston Tea Party justified?
24. Were arguments the colonists used to challenge the new taxes in the colonies reasonable?

The War of Independence

25. Was the American Revolution a revolution, or a rebellion?
26. What were the main reasons colonists were opposed to the Declaration of Independence?
27. Was George Washington an effective general?
28. Could the capture of Fort Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War have been avoided?
29. Could the Revolutionary War have been avoided?
30. Did African Americans help the colonies win the American Revolution?
31. What economic factors contributed to the American Revolution?
32. Why did the colonists win the Revolutionary War?
33. What were the goals of the American Revolution? Were they achieved? Are they still evident in American life?
34. How could the British have won the American Revolution?
35. If Burgoyne had not taken the "short cut" to Saratoga would the Americans have won the American Revolution?
36. If the Americans lost the battle of Saratoga would Spain have taken over the colonies?

Creating the Constitution

37. How did Shay's Rebellion show the weaknesses of the federal government under the Articles of Confederation?
38. How did the founding fathers define liberty?
39. In what ways did the United States Constitution remedy the defects of the Articles of Confederation?
40. Did the delegates to the Constitutional Convention represent the country's political attitudes, desires, and needs?
41. How can it be argued that the writers of the Constitution were moderates?
42. Why did the founding fathers fear favoring the extreme right (monarchy) and the extreme left (pure democracy)?
43. What fundamental beliefs motivated James Madison to write, "ambition must be made to counteract ambition?"

The First Years of the Republic 1789-1801

44. What was George Washington's greatest weakness as president?
45. Was it constitutional for the government to set up a national bank?
46. How did the schools evolve in the early 1800's?
47. What were the effects of the cotton gin on the American economy?
48. How did cotton affect the Southern economy and their society?

The Jefferson Era 1801-1815

49. Once in power, why did Jefferson not reverse all of Hamilton's political and economic programs? What was left intact? Why? What was done away with? Why?

50. Why did political parties emerge in America?
51. What factors contributed to economic growth between 1789 and 1815?
52. Did the United States win the war of 1812?
53. What were the positive consequences of the War of 1812 for the Americans?
54. Whose political views were better for the United States, those of Thomas Jefferson or Alexander Hamilton?

The Confident Years 1816–1830

55. Why did the Federalist Party die out?
56. What were the origins of the women's suffrage movement in the United States?
57. How did the United States acquire Oregon?
58. What were the effects of the Monroe doctrine?

The Age of Jackson 1824–1840

59. What factors explain Andrew Jackson's popularity?
60. What was the character of American nationalism in the nineteenth century?
61. What were the major features of the Jacksonian era? What were their origins and how did they affect the course of history?
62. In trial of the slave ship rebellion led by Cinque in 1839, what should have been the judge's decision?
63. What was the main cause of the war with Mexico?
64. What was the Mexican's point of view in the battle of the Alamo?

Westward Movement 1820–1850

65. What was the greatest benefit of the Missouri Compromise for the North?
66. What factors encouraged western migration in the nineteenth century?
67. How did religion affect westward expansion and settlement?
68. What were the major contributing factors to the growth of the Western city?
69. How did conflicts on the western frontier differ from traditional warfare?
70. Why was there a gunfight at the OK Corral?
71. How did the mining "company town" affect frontier life?
72. How did the mountain men impact westward expansion?
73. How was women's suffrage established in the Wyoming territory?
74. What were the best options the Donner Party could have used to survive the winter in the Sierra Nevada?
75. To what extent did Manifest Destiny intensify intersectional conflict?

Americans at Mid-Century 1830–1850

76. What led to the demise of the Whigs and what is the significance of this?
77. What was the most important cause involved in the creation of the Compromise of 1850?
78. To what extent did the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas–Nebraska Act increase sectional tension?
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80. Did children get a high quality education in the one-room country school?

Religions and Reform 1820–1850

81. Was the decision in the Dred Scott case reasonable based on the beliefs of the era?
82. What effects did the Kansas–Nebraska Act have on slavery?
83. What were the effects of the Mexican–American War (1846–1848)?
84. Who was fighting for abolitionism and what were their arguments?
85. Who was fighting against abolitionism and what were their arguments?
86. What were the long-term effects of John Brown's 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry?
87. Compare and contrast the views of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas toward slavery and white supremacy.
88. What were the causes of the slave uprising, called the Southampton Insurrection, led by Nat Turner in 1831?
89. What were the effects of the slave uprising, called the Southampton Insurrection, led by Nat Turner in 1831?

The Gathering Storm 1846–1861

90. What was the life of a slave like on a southern plantation?
91. What were the successes and failures of the pony express?
92. How did the Lincoln–Douglas Debates help affect the election of 1860?
93. How did the Tariff of 1857 affect the election of 1860?
94. What were the political, economic, and philosophic arguments the South used to justify the continuation of slavery?
95. How did urban slavery differ from slavery on the plantation?
96. Why would some historians state that the cause of the Civil War was not slavery, but was northern industrial imperialism?
97. Was there racism in the North before the Civil War?
98. What were the underlying economic factors for the maintenance of slavery in the antebellum South?
99. Were fugitive slaves treated (and punished) fairly?

100. Compare and contrast the class systems of the North and South before the Civil War in terms of the economic bases on which they rested?
101. Compare and contrast the values of the pre-Civil War Southern slaveholder with those of the Northern abolitionist.
102. Was Abraham Lincoln an effective commander-in-chief of the Union forces?
103. How did the issue of the trans-continental railroad contribute to the sectional controversy on the American frontier?
104. What were the consequences of the transportation revolution that occurred and who paid for this revolution?
105. What was the primary cause of the Mexican War?
106. How was the Mexican War settled and what were its results?
107. What pressures led to the compromise of 1850 and what was the compromise, and what were its results?

Civil War

108. Who was responsible for the first shot of the Civil War being fired at Fort Sumter?
109. Was secession justified?
110. Was the Civil War inevitable?
111. How did Lincoln ensure the Border States stayed loyal?
112. Could the Civil War have been avoided?
113. At the start of the Civil War which side had the advantage in terms of military preparedness and their attitudes toward war and fighting?
114. At the start of the Civil War which side had the advantage in terms of their abilities and methods of financing the war?
115. How did the Civil War affect the United States economy?
116. How could the Confederates have won the Civil War?
117. What was the role of women during the Civil War?
118. Was the Confederacy more "democratic" than the Union?

Reconstruction 1865-1905

119. Did the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation really help the slaves?
120. What was the reconstruction policy after the Civil War?
121. What effects did the "black codes" have on the United States?
122. What was the status of African Americans directly after the Civil War?
123. Did Reconstruction truly aid African Americans?
124. Was the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson reasonable?