

BMS Social Studies Academic Team Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What term is used for large, bowl-shaped volcanic depressions created by the collapse of a volcano?**
 - A. Caldera**
 - B. Crater**
 - C. Magma chamber**
 - D. Alpine lake**
- 2. What is the name of the town that became the center of life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony?**
 - A. Salem**
 - B. Plymouth**
 - C. Boston**
 - D. Cambridge**
- 3. What is the title of the famous speech delivered by Patrick Henry to the Second Virginia Convention?**
 - A. Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death**
 - B. Freedom's Call**
 - C. Fight for Independence**
 - D. Liberty's Demand**
- 4. What is the name given to the small civil war fought over slavery in Kansas following the Kansas-Nebraska Act?**
 - A. Bleeding Kansas**
 - B. Shays' Rebellion**
 - C. John Brown's Raid**
 - D. The Whiskey Rebellion**
- 5. Who established the first European school for navigators in Sagres, Portugal?**
 - A. Ferdinand Magellan**
 - B. Christopher Columbus**
 - C. Prince Henry**
 - D. Vasco da Gama**

- 6. Which Anglo-Saxon king is noted for his compassion and efforts to promote learning during the ninth century?**
- A. Richard the Lionheart**
 - B. Henry VIII**
 - C. Alfred the Great**
 - D. Edward the Confessor**
- 7. What name is given to the committees that united colonists against British actions before the American Revolution?**
- A. Committees of Correspondence**
 - B. Continental Congress**
 - C. Patriots**
 - D. Minutemen**
- 8. Which American statesman used the pseudonym Richard Saunders?**
- A. Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. Benjamin Franklin**
 - C. John Adams**
 - D. George Washington**
- 9. What term describes a deep, steep-walled, V-shaped valley cut by a river?**
- A. Canyon**
 - B. Gorge**
 - C. Valley**
 - D. Creek**
- 10. What title, meaning "great house," was given to the rulers of ancient Egypt?**
- A. King**
 - B. Emperor**
 - C. Pharaoh**
 - D. Caliph**

Answers

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1. A
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What term is used for large, bowl-shaped volcanic depressions created by the collapse of a volcano?

A. Caldera

B. Crater

C. Magma chamber

D. Alpine lake

The term used for large, bowl-shaped volcanic depressions created by the collapse of a volcano is "caldera." A caldera forms when a volcano erupts and loses a significant amount of magma from its underground reservoir, leading to the eventual collapse of the land above it. This results in a large, often circular depression that can sometimes fill with water, creating a lake. Calderas often form from the explosive eruption of a volcano, where the structural integrity of the volcano is compromised and the summit landslide occurs because of the void left by the drained magma. This process is distinct from other formations such as craters, which are typically smaller and formed by the explosion from a volcanic vent or during the eruption itself, rather than by a collapse of the entire volcanic structure. Understanding these terms is crucial in studying volcanic geology, as they encompass different aspects of volcanic activity and formation.

2. What is the name of the town that became the center of life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony?

A. Salem

B. Plymouth

C. Boston

D. Cambridge

The town that became the center of life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony is Boston. Founded in 1630 by Puritan settlers, Boston quickly grew in importance due to its strategic location on the harbor, which facilitated trade and communication. As the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Boston became the political, religious, and cultural hub of the region. It was here that key events in American history unfolded, such as the founding of institutions of higher learning like Harvard University and significant interactions between colonists and Native Americans. While Salem, Plymouth, and Cambridge were also notable in early colonial history, they did not assume the same central role that Boston did in the governance and economic life of the colony. Plymouth was the site of one of the first settlements, recognized for the Pilgrims' journey, while Salem is known for its maritime history and later the infamous witch trials. Cambridge is primarily famous for its university, which was established after Boston's founding, but it remained overshadowed by Boston's prominence in the colonial landscape.

3. What is the title of the famous speech delivered by Patrick Henry to the Second Virginia Convention?

A. Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death

B. Freedom's Call

C. Fight for Independence

D. Liberty's Demand

The title of the famous speech delivered by Patrick Henry at the Second Virginia Convention is "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death." This speech, delivered in 1775, is one of the most iconic statements of American revolutionary sentiment. In it, Henry passionately argues for the necessity of military action against British rule, emphasizing the importance of liberty and freedom. His declaration reflects the urgency of the moment and embodies the spirit of independence that fueled the American Revolution. The phrase "Give me liberty, or give me death" has since become a rallying cry for those advocating for freedom and self-determination, capturing the essence of the fight against tyranny. This bold and emotive statement makes it clear why this option stands out as the correct answer, as it encapsulates Henry's fervent call to action and remains a significant highlight of rhetorical history.

4. What is the name given to the small civil war fought over slavery in Kansas following the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

A. Bleeding Kansas

B. Shays' Rebellion

C. John Brown's Raid

D. The Whiskey Rebellion

The term "Bleeding Kansas" refers specifically to the violent confrontations that occurred in Kansas between 1854 and 1859, following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This act allowed the residents of Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether or not to allow slavery within their borders, which led to a significant influx of both pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers. The resulting tensions resulted in widespread violence and conflict, as both sides sought to influence the decision on slavery in Kansas. The name "Bleeding Kansas" captures the essence of this period marked by battles, skirmishes, and even atrocities committed by both factions, as they rushed to establish a foothold in the territory. This civil unrest was a precursor to the larger national conflict that would erupt into the American Civil War. The other options, while significant events in American history, do not pertain to this specific conflict over slavery in Kansas: Shays' Rebellion was an uprising against economic injustices in Massachusetts, John Brown's Raid involved an attempt to incite a slave revolt, and the Whiskey Rebellion was against a tax on whiskey.

5. Who established the first European school for navigators in Sagres, Portugal?

- A. Ferdinand Magellan**
- B. Christopher Columbus**
- C. Prince Henry**
- D. Vasco da Gama**

The establishment of the first European school for navigators at Sagres, Portugal, is attributed to Prince Henry, often known as Prince Henry the Navigator. He was a central figure in the early days of the Portuguese Empire and played a key role in promoting exploration during the 15th century. Prince Henry was instrumental in advancing maritime knowledge and navigational techniques, fostering a spirit of exploration that led to significant voyages along the African coast and beyond. The school he founded did not function in the traditional way as a formal institution, but rather as a gathering of some of the best minds in navigation, cartography, and shipbuilding of that era. His endeavors greatly contributed to the Age of Discoveries, ushering in an era of exploration that significantly changed global trade and interactions among different cultures. The legacy of his contributions laid the groundwork for later explorers such as Vasco da Gama and Ferdinand Magellan, who expanded upon the knowledge and routes established during Prince Henry's time.

6. Which Anglo-Saxon king is noted for his compassion and efforts to promote learning during the ninth century?

- A. Richard the Lionheart**
- B. Henry VIII**
- C. Alfred the Great**
- D. Edward the Confessor**

Alfred the Great is recognized for his compassion and dedication to promoting education and learning during the ninth century. As the King of Wessex, he faced numerous challenges, including Viking invasions, and he focused not only on military defense but also on cultural and intellectual revival. Alfred believed that a strong nation was built on a well-educated populace, which led him to initiate the translation of important texts into Old English and to establish schools. Additionally, his efforts included the revival of legal and administrative structures, which contributed to an overall improvement in governance and literacy. His reign is often seen as a turning point in English history, marking the beginning of a more organized and educated societal framework. In contrast, the other figures mentioned were significant in different contexts and periods, but they did not prioritize the educational reforms and cultural advancements that Alfred championed.

7. What name is given to the committees that united colonists against British actions before the American Revolution?

A. Committees of Correspondence

B. Continental Congress

C. Patriots

D. Minutemen

The committees that played a pivotal role in uniting colonists against British actions prior to the American Revolution were known as the Committees of Correspondence. These organizations were established in the early 1770s and served as a means of communication and cooperation among the colonies. Their primary purpose was to ensure that all the colonies were informed about British policies and legislative actions that were considered oppressive or unjust, such as the Stamp Act and the Intolerable Acts. The Committees of Correspondence allowed colonists to share information, coordinate resistance efforts, and build a sense of solidarity against British rule. This network became particularly crucial in mobilizing public opinion and organizing collective action, helping to lay the groundwork for the more formal gathering of representatives at the Continental Congress. In contrast, while the Continental Congress was significant for formal representation and decision-making, it came after the Committees of Correspondence had already begun uniting colonial opposition. Other terms like Patriots and Minutemen refer to groups of people opposing British rule or providing military readiness but do not specifically denote the organizational committees that facilitated communication and coordination among colonists.

8. Which American statesman used the pseudonym Richard Saunders?

A. Thomas Jefferson

B. Benjamin Franklin

C. John Adams

D. George Washington

The pseudonym Richard Saunders was used by Benjamin Franklin, primarily in his publication of "Poor Richard's Almanack." Franklin adopted this name to convey wisdom and wit through the character of a fictional persona. The almanac became famous for its proverbs, practical advice, and humor, which reflected Franklin's values and philosophy. His use of a pseudonym allowed him to engage with a wider audience and deliver his messages in an accessible format. While Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and George Washington made significant contributions to American history and political thought, they did not employ the pseudonym Richard Saunders in their writings or public discourse. This distinction makes Franklin the correct answer in this context.

9. What term describes a deep, steep-walled, V-shaped valley cut by a river?

A. Canyon

B. Gorge

C. Valley

D. Creek

The term that describes a deep, steep-walled, V-shaped valley cut by a river is canyon. Canyons typically form through the erosion of rock by flowing water over long periods. The process of erosion carves out the steep sides, resulting in the distinctive V-shape that characterizes many canyons. They can also be quite expansive, showcasing impressive geological features and formations. While "gorge" is similar in meaning and can also refer to a narrow valley with steep, rocky sides, the term "canyon" is more widely used to describe broader areas with more significant depth and width, often associated with river systems. The term "valley" is more general and can apply to many types of landforms, not specifically the steep-walled formations characterized by the V-shape mentioned in the question. Lastly, "creek" refers to smaller bodies of flowing water, not the landform itself. Thus, canyon is the specific and suitable term for this type of geographical feature.

10. What title, meaning "great house," was given to the rulers of ancient Egypt?

A. King

B. Emperor

C. Pharaoh

D. Caliph

The title that means "great house" and was given to the rulers of ancient Egypt is "Pharaoh." This term is derived from the Egyptian word "per-aa," which literally translates to "great house" and originally referred to the royal palace. Over time, it became synonymous with the king or ruler of ancient Egypt, emphasizing the authority and grandeur of their position. Pharaohs were considered both political and religious leaders, playing a vital role in ancient Egyptian society and culture. Their reigns were marked by monumental achievements in architecture, such as the construction of pyramids, and a strong belief in the afterlife and divine right to rule, which further solidified the significance of the title.