

New Mexico History Cumulative Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. Why was New Mexico important to the Confederate South?**
 - A. The South wanted the gold fields and international recognition.**
 - B. The South wanted to use the Rio Grande river to transport troops.**
 - C. The South wanted access to wild horses.**
 - D. The South wanted to keep slavery out of New Mexico.**
- 2. Getting started in mining relied heavily on what factors?**
 - A. Stories of striking it rich**
 - B. Maps and guidebooks**
 - C. Careful planning and accurate information**
 - D. Pure veins that required little effort to mine**
- 3. During the Lincoln County War, what did President Hayes declare to characterize the situation in New Mexico?**
 - A. Amnesty**
 - B. Emergency**
 - C. Insurrection**
 - D. Regulation**
- 4. During WWI, what was the exception of events that occurred after Curry and Roosevelt called up the Rough Riders?**
 - A. Curry quickly built-up four regiments, led by well-trained captains.**
 - B. Many of the Rough Riders refused to join in the fighting.**
 - C. Both Curry and Roosevelt were told by President Wilson that they would not be fighting.**
 - D. Prominent individuals were eager to join the war effort.**
- 5. What policy directly affected the Navajo during the American expansion westward?**
 - A. Indian removal policies**
 - B. Land grant policies**
 - C. Cultural assimilation policies**
 - D. Sovereignty recognition**

- 6. During the period from 1800 to 1850, the U.S. population expanded from 5 million to what figure?**
- A. 10 million**
 - B. 16 million**
 - C. 23 million**
 - D. 130 million**
- 7. What role did agriculture play in the history of New Mexico's indigenous peoples?**
- A. It was a minor aspect of their culture.**
 - B. It was central to their lifestyle and subsistence.**
 - C. It was primarily for trade purposes.**
 - D. It was introduced by European settlers.**
- 8. What did Victoriano Carranza do when he came into power in Mexico in 1915?**
- A. He supported the Plan of San Diego.**
 - B. He helped Pancho Villa invade Columbus, New Mexico.**
 - C. He established the National Guard units.**
 - D. He attempted to use international diplomacy to end border issues.**
- 9. Curry established the Territorial Conservation Commission to _____.**
- A. Save endangered animals in New Mexico.**
 - B. Conserve water by requiring New Mexicans to catch rainwater.**
 - C. Save the pinion trees from over-harvesting.**
 - D. Allow New Mexicans to determine how to manage their own grazing land.**
- 10. Which of the following regions does not include New Mexico?**
- A. Southwestern United States**
 - B. Rocky Mountain states**
 - C. Midwestern United States**
 - D. Four Corners Region**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Why was New Mexico important to the Confederate South?

- A. The South wanted the gold fields and international recognition.**
- B. The South wanted to use the Rio Grande river to transport troops.**
- C. The South wanted access to wild horses.**
- D. The South wanted to keep slavery out of New Mexico.**

New Mexico was important to the Confederate South primarily because of its strategic resources and geopolitical significance. The desire for gold fields highlights the economic motivations behind the Confederate interest in this territory. During the Civil War, the South was in need of financial resources to sustain its efforts; therefore, controlling areas with valuable mineral deposits could provide the necessary funds. Additionally, international recognition was a major aspect of the South's strategy; by expanding their territory to include regions like New Mexico, they hoped to gain legitimacy from foreign powers, which could potentially support their cause against the Union. The geographic location of New Mexico also held tactical importance, as it could serve as a gateway to Mexico, allowing for trade and support. Overall, the combination of economic incentives and the desire for political legitimacy made New Mexico a significant target for the Confederate South during the Civil War.

2. Getting started in mining relied heavily on what factors?

- A. Stories of striking it rich**
- B. Maps and guidebooks**
- C. Careful planning and accurate information**
- D. Pure veins that required little effort to mine**

The foundation for successful mining endeavors in New Mexico, as well as in other mining regions, was predominantly grounded in careful planning and accurate information. This approach was crucial because mining is a complex endeavor that requires extensive knowledge about the geography, geology, and potential resource deposits of an area. Miners who meticulously planned their operations would typically survey land, assess the quality of ore, and consider logistics such as transportation and resource availability. Accurate information, including geological surveys and data on mineral deposits, greatly increased the chances of finding valuable resources. This strategic planning often involved investing in maps and other informational resources, which facilitated more informed decisions about where to mine. In contrast to the idea of simply following excitement or unverified leads, careful planning ensured that miners engaged in more sustainable and potentially profitable ventures. The other factors listed do play a role in mining, such as the allure of striking it rich—which can attract people to enter the field—and the usefulness of maps and guidebooks for navigation. However, without a foundation of thorough planning and reliable information, the chances of long-term success in mining would be significantly diminished.

3. During the Lincoln County War, what did President Hayes declare to characterize the situation in New Mexico?

- A. Amnesty**
- B. Emergency**
- C. Insurrection**
- D. Regulation**

During the Lincoln County War, the situation in New Mexico escalated into significant violence and conflict, driven by disputes between rival factions involved in the cattle trade and local political power struggles. President Hayes's characterization of the situation as an insurrection reflects the severity and nature of the conflict. By labeling it an insurrection, it indicated that the federal government recognized the unrest as an organized attempt to resist authority, which warranted a serious response. This designation not only justified federal intervention but also highlighted the breakdown of law and order in the region at that time. The other options do not accurately convey the gravity of the conflict as perceived by the federal government. For example, amnesty would suggest a reconciliation or forgiveness approach towards the insurgents, which was not the stance taken in response to the Lincoln County War. Declaring a state of emergency would imply immediate action due to dangerous conditions, but insurrection specifically addressed the organized resistance aspect. Regulation might refer to attempts at establishing order, but it doesn't capture the full scope of the chaos and uprisings occurring in New Mexico during the war. Hence, the choice of "insurrection" effectively communicates the challenges faced in managing the violent disputes characteristic of this tumultuous era in New Mexico's history.

4. During WWI, what was the exception of events that occurred after Curry and Roosevelt called up the Rough Riders?

- A. Curry quickly built-up four regiments, led by well-trained captains.**
- B. Many of the Rough Riders refused to join in the fighting.**
- C. Both Curry and Roosevelt were told by President Wilson that they would not be fighting.**
- D. Prominent individuals were eager to join the war effort.**

The choice that highlights Many of the Rough Riders refusing to join in the fighting accurately reflects the sentiments and outcomes of the time. After the Rough Riders were called up during World War I, there were significant challenges related to participation. Many veterans from the original Rough Riders were older or had commitments that made active service difficult. Additionally, there was hesitation among some individuals about re-engaging in combat due to the complexities of modern warfare and the memories of past battles. This option underscores the shift in attitudes toward warfare and the realities of mobilizing troops who may not have been ready or willing to go back into combat scenarios. The other options present more optimistic scenarios regarding troop organization, leadership, and eagerness to fight, which do not align with the reality faced by the Rough Riders during this period. This crucial distinction is what makes the selected option more relevant and accurate in the context of historical events related to the Rough Riders' involvement in World War I.

5. What policy directly affected the Navajo during the American expansion westward?

- A. Indian removal policies**
- B. Land grant policies**
- C. Cultural assimilation policies**
- D. Sovereignty recognition**

The Indian removal policies had a significant impact on the Navajo during the period of American westward expansion. These policies, which were implemented primarily in the 1830s, aimed to relocate Native American tribes from their ancestral lands in the Eastern United States to designated areas in the West, often referred to as "Indian Territory." Although the most famous example of this is the Trail of Tears, which involved the forced relocation of the Cherokee, similar policies were applied to various tribes, including the Navajo. The U.S. government's desire for expansion and the discovery of resources in the West prompted actions that resulted in the displacement of Native communities. For the Navajo, this manifested in several ways, including conflicts over land ownership, forced treaties, and military actions that led to the Long Walk of 1864, where thousands of Navajos were forced to march to a reservation. This trail of suffering and loss illustrates the real consequences of Indian removal policies for the Navajo people, disrupting their traditional means of living and undermining their cultural practices. While land grant policies, cultural assimilation strategies, and sovereignty recognition also played roles in Native American history, the direct effects stemming from Indian removal policies are particularly significant in the context of the Navajo and the broader picture of

6. During the period from 1800 to 1850, the U.S. population expanded from 5 million to what figure?

- A. 10 million**
- B. 16 million**
- C. 23 million**
- D. 130 million**

During the period from 1800 to 1850, the U.S. population indeed grew significantly due to factors such as westward expansion, immigration, and high birth rates. The figure of 16 million reflects the rapid growth the nation experienced as it moved through the early phases of the 19th century, particularly following the War of 1812 and during the period of Manifest Destiny. This increase can be attributed to notable events such as the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, which added vast territories to the United States, encouraging migration and settlement. Additionally, the economic opportunities that arose during this time attracted many immigrants, further accelerating population growth. The population reaching approximately 16 million by 1850 illustrates not only the demographic changes but also the broader historical context of expansionism and migration during this transformative period in American history.

7. What role did agriculture play in the history of New Mexico's indigenous peoples?

- A. It was a minor aspect of their culture.**
- B. It was central to their lifestyle and subsistence.**
- C. It was primarily for trade purposes.**
- D. It was introduced by European settlers.**

Agriculture was indeed central to the lifestyle and subsistence of New Mexico's indigenous peoples. Many Native American communities in the region, such as the Pueblo peoples, developed sophisticated agricultural practices that allowed them to cultivate crops like corn, beans, and squash, known as the "Three Sisters." This agricultural foundation supported their population and enabled the establishment of permanent settlements, leading to rich cultural developments. The significance of agriculture in indigenous societies is evident through their advanced irrigation techniques and the spiritual connection they had with the land and farming. These practices were not just about food production; they were integral to their social structure, traditions, and identity. Celebrations, rituals, and community cohesion often revolved around agricultural cycles and harvests. While trade and interactions with European settlers did influence agricultural practices later on, the foundational role of agriculture in New Mexico's indigenous history cannot be underplayed. It was crucial for sustaining their communities long before European contact.

8. What did Victoriano Carranza do when he came into power in Mexico in 1915?

- A. He supported the Plan of San Diego.**
- B. He helped Pancho Villa invade Columbus, New Mexico.**
- C. He established the National Guard units.**
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Victoriano Carranza, upon coming into power in Mexico in 1915, focused significantly on international diplomacy to address and resolve border issues, particularly those related to tensions with the United States. His administration was marked by efforts to stabilize Mexico after the tumultuous years of the Mexican Revolution. By engaging in diplomatic efforts, Carranza aimed to improve relations with foreign powers and seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts that had arisen, particularly concerning border skirmishes and the activities of revolutionary factions. His approach was pragmatic, recognizing that diplomatic negotiations could help alleviate tensions and foster stability in both Mexico and its relations with neighboring countries. This was especially critical after the U.S. military intervention in response to conflicts involving figures like Pancho Villa, highlighting the importance of addressing these matters through diplomatic channels rather than further military actions.

9. Curry established the Territorial Conservation Commission to _____.

- A. Save endangered animals in New Mexico.
- B. Conserve water by requiring New Mexicans to catch rainwater.
- C. Save the pinion trees from over-harvesting.
- D. Allow New Mexicans to determine how to manage their own grazing land.**

The establishment of the Territorial Conservation Commission by Curry aimed to empower New Mexicans to take charge of managing their own grazing land. This initiative was significant in promoting local stewardship over land use and resource management practices, enabling communities to tailor their approaches to grazing in ways that would be most effective for their specific environments and needs. This localized management was crucial at a time when the balance between agricultural practices and conservation was becoming increasingly important. While efforts to save endangered species, conserve water, or protect specific tree species are all vital components of conservation efforts, they do not specifically highlight the intent behind the formation of the commission. The focus on community involvement in grazing land management represents a broader recognition of the importance of local expertise and the need for sustainable practices that consider the unique conditions and traditions of New Mexico's diverse landscapes.

10. Which of the following regions does not include New Mexico?

- A. Southwestern United States
- B. Rocky Mountain states
- C. Midwestern United States**
- D. Four Corners Region

The Midwestern United States is indeed the correct choice, as this region does not encompass New Mexico. The Midwestern United States typically consists of states located in the central part of the country, such as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. New Mexico is located in the southwestern corner of the country, and its geographic and cultural characteristics are distinct from those of the Midwestern states. In contrast, the other regions mentioned are associated with New Mexico. The Southwestern United States is home to New Mexico, encompassing its historical, cultural, and geographic landscape. Similarly, the Rocky Mountain states include New Mexico although it is often considered part of the broader Southwest region. The Four Corners Region is particularly notable because it is the only point in the United States where four states meet: New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah, further emphasizing New Mexico's inclusion in these nearby regions.