

AP USH Summer Work

A People's History of the United States

Reading Questions

Chapter 1: Columbus, the Indians, and Human Progress

1. What percentage of Spain's population were nobility? How much land did the nobility own?
2. How many ships and men was Columbus given due to his exaggerated reports? What was his aim with these ships and men?
3. How many of the 250,000 Arawak natives on Haiti survived enslavement in the two years since Columbus' arrival?
4. Explain how the Spanish treated the natives according to Bartolome de Las Casas. Give at least 2 examples.
5. Summarize Zinn's point about historians found on page 8 (or [here](#) in the section that begins "Past elementary and high schools).
6. What does Zinn's paraphrased statement "The cry of the poor is not always just, but if you don't listen to it, you will never know what justice is?"
7. What did Hernan Cortes do to the Aztec people in Cholulu?
8. What did the English do to Powhatan's people after he supposedly sent a harsh no to the governor of Jamestown?
9. Why did the Puritans that settled in Massachusetts Bay attack the Pequots?
10. Describe the methods the Puritans used in the Pequot War.
11. Describe the Hopi and Zuni people's living situations prior to European arrival.

Commented [MM1]: Follow Up: Explain three ways

12. Which tribes made up the Iroquois?

Chapter 2: Drawing the Color Line

1. What is Zinn's argument about the "color line" in the United States?
2. Why were the English settlers in Jamestown unable to enslave local natives?
3. What argument does Edmund Morgan make about why the English attacked natives with impunity?
4. How many Africans had been imported to South America and Caribbean by 1619?
5. Explain the comparison that Basil Davidson made about the difference in society in Portugal and the Congo.
6. Explain the cruelty that enslaved Africans faced from capture, to imprisonment, and to life on board slave ships.
7. How much net profit (profit minus cost) did James Madison on each of his enslaved persons per year?
8. What did the Virginia slave code state regarding runaway enslaved persons?
9. Zinn argues the system of slavery was both "psychological and physical at the same time." In what ways did Zinn argue this was true?
10. Explain the causes and effects of the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina in 1739.
11. Zinn argues that only "one fear as greater than the fear of black rebellion in the new American colonies." What was that fear and what evidence does Zinn have to support his argument?

12. In what ways did the wealthy planters of the south protect the small white planters and at the same time enforce black enslavement in society?

Chapter 3: Persons of Mean and Vile Condition

1. How did Bacon's Rebellion begin?
2. In what ways did Bacon's "Declaration of the People" show a resentment toward the rich in Jamestown? In which ways did it show a "frontier hatred" of natives?
3. Who made up the majority of Bacon's army? How were these people treated in England and Virginia?
4. What was the voyage to the colonies like for indentured servants?
5. How did Pennsylvania law deal with marriages between servants without the consent of their master?
6. What percentage of the population of Maryland was servants in 1755?
7. What happened to most servants after they were freed?
8. Who wrote the Carolinas "Fundamental Constitutions?" In what ways did it give power to the wealthiest Carolinians?
9. How much did the percentage of the unpropertied population of Boston grow from 1687 to 1790?
10. In what ways did the poor and labor classes of English colonies fight back or protest against the wealth and inequality of the colonies?
11. What law did South Carolina pass in 1698 in relation to enslaved Africans and white servants?

12. How did the wealthiest exploit the growing colonial middle class in the 18th century, according to Zinn?