

Pre Colonial America Summer Quiz

Name _____

1. Before 1492, many American Indian cultures were strongly influenced by the

- ☐ (A) spread of corn cultivation
- ☐ (B) ravages of smallpox epidemics
- ☐ (C) regular contacts with Africa
- ☐ (D) invention of the spoked wheel
- ☐ (E) domestication of horses



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2.



Which of the following statements about the population of North America at the time of Christopher Columbus' voyages is supported by the map above?

- (A) The American Indian population was distributed uniformly throughout North America.
 - (B) The most densely populated regions of North America would eventually become part of New Spain.
 - (C) The most densely populated regions of North America would eventually become part of New France.
 - (D) Compared with other areas of North America, relatively few American Indians lived in the Southeast.
 - (E) The American Indian population was concentrated on the Great Plains.
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“The development of a plantation economy, beginning in the sixteenth century, transformed Africa, America, Europe, and Asia, too. It displaced the old silk trade and shifted the increasingly dynamic center of the world economy westward to the Atlantic. . . .

“The Atlantic economy supplied eager European consumers with mildly addictive . . . crops like tobacco and coffee, along with sugar. . . . The Atlantic plantation system transformed these three [products] into items of general consumption. . . . Investors prospered, and capital for further economic development accumulated in the [home country]. The governments found funding and motive to develop sea power. The Americas had lucrative export crops and developed a society based on a system of labor exploitation of Africans, and Africa suffered the transport of eleven million of its people to the New World.”

Thomas Bender, historian, *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History*, 2006

3. Which of the following claims does the excerpt make about changes that occurred as a result of new interactions in the Atlantic region?

- ☐ (A) Merchants from Asia dominated trade throughout the sixteenth century.
 - ☐ (B) Europeans developed new methods of conducting trade and making profits.
 - ☐ (C) African kingdoms were the largest purchasers of goods produced in the Americas.
 - ☐ (D) Native Americans amassed fortunes as Europeans paid high prices for rare goods.
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4. Which of the following was an outcome of the Columbian Exchange?



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- ☐ A The life expectancy of Native Americans increased.
 - ☐ B Horses and smallpox were introduced in Europe.
 - ☐ C Sugar and rice were introduced in Africa.
 - ☐ D The diets of Europeans improved.
 - ☐ E The population of Europe decreased.
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“I said everything to them I could to divert them from their idolatries, and draw them to a knowledge of God our Lord. Moctezuma replied, the others assenting to what he said, that they had already informed me they were not the aborigines of the country, but that their ancestors had emigrated to it many years ago; and they fully believed that after so long an absence from their native land, they might have fallen into some errors; that I having more recently arrived must know better than themselves what they ought to believe; and that if I would instruct them in these matters, and make them understand the true faith, they would follow my directions, as being for the best. Afterwards, Moctezuma and many of the principal citizens remained with me until I had removed the idols, purified the chapels, and placed the images in them, manifesting apparent pleasure.”

Letter from Hernán Cortés to Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, on his interaction with the Mexico (Aztecs), 1520

5. Which of the following was a primary feature of social relations established in the Spanish colonies in the Western Hemisphere?
- ☐ A The development of a rigid racial hierarchy
 - ☐ B The growth of friendship and cooperation with native peoples
 - ☐ C The emergence of racially mixed populations mingling European settlers, Native Americans, and Africans
 - ☐ D A close-knit, homogeneous society with a thriving mixed economy of agriculture and commerce based on export crops
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6. Which of the following was a major difference between the encomienda system and slave labor in the Spanish colonies?

- ☐ A The encomienda system was developed specifically for plantation agriculture, whereas slaves were used only in mines.
 - ☐ B The encomienda system imported servants from Europe, whereas the slavery system mostly exploited Native Americans.
 - ☐ C The encomienda system exploited the labor of Native Americans, whereas slavery more typically extracted labor from enslaved Africans.
 - ☐ D The encomienda system paid laborers wages, whereas wages were not paid to enslaved people.
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7. Most archaeologists and historians believe that the first peoples who colonized the Americas came from

- ☐ A Asia
 - ☐ B Africa
 - ☐ C western Europe
 - ☐ D Australia
 - ☐ E the Mediterranean
-

Question refers to the excerpt below.

“What induced [American] Indians to go out of their way to trap beaver and trade the skins for glass beads, mirrors, copper kettles, and other goods?... Recent scholarship on [American] Indians’ motives in this earliest stage of the trade indicates that they regarded such objects as the equivalents of the quartz, mica, shell, and other sacred substances that had formed the heart of long-distance exchange in North America for millennia.... While northeastern [American] Indians recognized Europeans as different from themselves, they interacted with them and their materials in ways that were consistent with their own customs and beliefs.”

Neal Salisbury, historian, “The Indians’ Old World: Native Americans and the Coming of Europeans,” 1996



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8. A direct result of European exploration of North America during the 1500s and early 1600s was the

- ☐ (A) large-scale migration of American Indians to Europe
 - ☐ (B) introduction of new animals and crops to North America
 - ☐ (C) decline of African slavery in North America
 - ☐ (D) smaller role played by Spain in European affairs
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Question refers to the excerpt below.

“The first we heard [while Smith was exploring the James River in May] was that 400 Indians the day before had assaulted the fort and surprised it. . . . With all speed we palisadoed [built barricades around] our fort;... The day before the ship’s departure the king of [the] Pamunkey sent [an] Indian... to assure us peace, our fort being then palisadoed round, and all our men in good health and comfort, albeit... it did not so long continue.

“[By September] most of our chieftest men [were] either sick or discontented, the rest being in such despair as they would rather starve and rot with idleness than be persuaded to do anything for their own relief without constraint. Our victuals being now within eighteen days spent, and the Indian trade decreasing, I was sent to the mouth of the river to Kegquouhtan, an Indian town, to trade for corn, and try the river for fish, but our fishing we could not effect by reason of the stormy weather. The Indians, thinking us near famished, with careless kindness offered us little pieces of bread and small handfuls of beans or wheat for a hatchet or a piece of copper. In like manner I entertained their kindness and in like... offered them like commodities, but the children, or any that showed extraordinary kindness, I liberally contented with free gift of such trifles as well contented them.”

John Smith, English explorer relating events in the Virginia colony, 1608

9. Smith’s description of the Pamunkey people’s interactions with the Virginia colonists best serves as evidence of which of the following characteristics of American Indians along the Eastern Seaboard in the 1600s?



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- ☐ (A) Complex societies with permanent settlements
 - ☐ (B) A dependence on English trade goods
 - ☐ (C) Decreased populations due to epidemic disease
 - ☐ (D) Elaborate caste systems
-

“[Before European contact] Cahokia [in present-day Missouri] and such other major centers as those now known as Coosa and Etowah in Georgia, Moundville in Alabama, and Natchez in Mississippi were home to highly stratified societies, organized as chiefdoms and characterized by a sharp divide between elites and commoners. . . . Surrounding networks of agricultural hamlets provided food to support the urban centers. . . .

“From the Ohio River through most of present-day Canada and down the coast to the Chesapeake were speakers of Algonquian languages. . . . Nearly everywhere [here], villages composed of 500 to 2,000 people were the norm. . . .

“[This] Indian country was decentralized and diverse, but not disconnected. . . . Routes of trade and communication, most of them millennia old and following the great river systems, crisscrossed the continent. The goods that moved along them were, for the most part, few and rare. . . . Some closely neighboring people might exchange crucial resources—corn, for instances, for meat or fish.”

Daniel K. Richter, historian, *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*, 2001

10. Which of the following best characterizes the process described in the first paragraph of the excerpt?

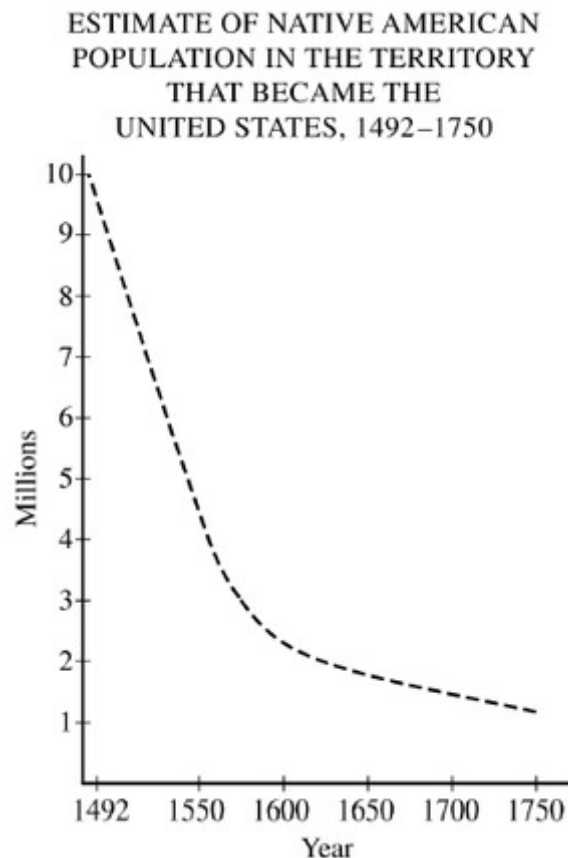
- ☐ (A) Native American agriculture encouraged the growth of socially diversified urban areas.
 - ☐ (B) An arid climate led Native Americans to construct irrigation projects in the Mississippi River valley.
 - ☐ (C) The climate in North America discouraged the development of large settlements.
 - ☐ (D) Military power helped Native American hunters and gathers to conquer expansive cities.
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11. Which of the following best describes the economic system that supported the Native American villages discussed in the second paragraph of the excerpt?

- (A) Seminomadic hunting
- (B) Settled subsistence farming
- (C) Trade and manufacturing of luxury goods
- (D) Migration and colonization of new territories



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12. Which of the following contributed most to the changes shown in the graph?

- ☐ (A) Loss of territory and access to natural resources
 - ☐ (B) The introduction of new plants and animals
 - ☐ (C) The introduction of new diseases
 - ☐ (D) Warfare with Europeans
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13. The most important factor that enabled the Spanish to conquer native peoples in Mexico and New Spain in the sixteenth century was the

- ☐ (A) introduction of cattle and pigs, which disrupted native patterns of agriculture
 - ☐ (B) introduction of European diseases to which native peoples were not resistant
 - ☐ (C) introduction of Christianity, which weakened the solidarity of native peoples
 - ☐ (D) superior horsemanship displayed by the Spanish conquistadores
 - ☐ (E) introduction of trade goods that drove wedges between native peoples and set them to war against each other
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