American History Trivia

Name _____ Score ____ / 25

1. What was the first permanent English settlement in America, founded in 1607?

A. Plymouth **B.** Jamestown **C.** St. Augustine **D.** Roanoke

2. In what year did the Pilgrims arrive aboard the Mayflower?

A. 1588 **B.** 1607 **C.** 1650 **D.** 1620

3. Which silversmith rode to warn Lexington that British troops were coming in 1775?

A. Nathan Hale **B.** John Hancock **C.** Samuel Adams **D.** Paul Revere

4. In what year was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

A. 1789 **B.** 1787 **C.** 1776 **D.** 1781

5. Who wrote most of the Declaration of Independence?

A. Benjamin Franklin **B.** James Madison
C. John Adams **D.** Thomas Jefferson

6. Which country's navy helped the Americans trap the British army at Yorktown in 1781?

A. Netherlands **B.** Spain **C.** France **D.** Portugal

7. Which state was the first to approve the Constitution?

A. Delaware **B.** Pennsylvania **C.** Massachusetts **D.** Virginia

8. In which city did the Constitution's first Congress meet and the first President take office?

A. Washington, D.C. **B.** New York City
C. Philadelphia **D.** Boston

9. Who was the first Chief Justice of the United States?

A. Alexander Hamilton **B.** Roger Taney
C. John Marshall **D.** John Jay

10. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?

A. The Bill of Rights
B. The Federalist Papers
C. The Articles of Confederation
D. The Emancipation Proclamation

11. Which 1803 purchase from France roughly doubled the size of the United States?

A. The Florida Purchase
B. The Alaska Purchase
C. The Louisiana Purchase
D. The Gadsden Purchase

12. Lewis and Clark set out in 1804 to explore the land west of which river?

A. Hudson River
B. Potomac River
C. Rio Grande
D. Mississippi River

13. Which canal, opened in 1825, linked the Hudson River with the Great Lakes?

A. Suez Canal
B. Panama Canal
C. Erie Canal
D. Chesapeake and Ohio Canal

14. Which document did President Lincoln issue on January 1, 1863?

A. The Gettysburg Address
B. The Emancipation Proclamation
C. The Homestead Act
D. The Monroe Doctrine

15. Which 1863 battle in Pennsylvania was a turning point of the Civil War?

A. Gettysburg **B.** Shiloh **C.** Antietam **D.** Bull Run

16. From which country did the United States buy Alaska in 1867?

A. Canada **B.** Russia **C.** Spain **D.** Great Britain

17. The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869 at Promontory Summit, in which territory?

A. Wyoming **B.** Nevada **C.** Colorado **D.** Utah

18. Which national park, created in 1872, was the first national park in the world?

A. Yellowstone **B.** Grand Canyon **C.** Glacier **D.** Yosemite

19. In which state did the Wright brothers make their first powered airplane flight in 1903?

A. North Carolina **B.** Kansas
C. Ohio **D.** Virginia

20. In what year did the 19th Amendment give women across the country the right to vote?

A. 1912 **B.** 1920 **C.** 1945 **D.** 1932

21. In what year did the stock market crash that began the Great Depression?

A. 1929 **B.** 1919 **C.** 1933 **D.** 1937

22. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?

A. Harriet Quimby **B.** Sally Ride
C. Amelia Earhart **D.** Bessie Coleman

23. Which event on December 7, 1941, brought the United States into World War II?

A. D-Day **B.** The sinking of the Lusitania
C. The attack on Pearl Harbor **D.** The Battle of Midway

24. Who is the only President elected four times?

A. Franklin D. Roosevelt **B.** Ulysses S. Grant
C. Theodore Roosevelt **D.** Woodrow Wilson

25. Which state became the fiftieth state in 1959?

A. Alaska **B.** Hawaii **C.** New Mexico **D.** Arizona

Answer Key

1. **B. Jamestown**
   St. Augustine in Florida, founded by Spain in 1565, is older.
2. **D. 1620**
   They came ashore at Cape Cod, then settled at Plymouth.
3. **D. Paul Revere**
   William Dawes rode with the same warning by another road.
4. **C. 1776**
   Congress approved it on July 4, 1776.
5. **D. Thomas Jefferson**
   Jefferson was 33 years old at the time.
6. **C. France**
   French ships kept the British from escaping by sea, and the British surrendered.
7. **A. Delaware**
   Delaware ratified it on December 7, 1787, which is why it calls itself the First State.
8. **B. New York City**
   The capital moved to Philadelphia in 1790 and to Washington, D.C., in 1800.
9. **D. John Jay**
   President Washington appointed him in 1789.
10. **A. The Bill of Rights**
    They took effect in 1791.
11. **C. The Louisiana Purchase**
    President Jefferson’s deal cost about $15 million.
12. **D. Mississippi River**
    They reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805.
13. **C. Erie Canal**
    It helped make New York City the busiest port in the country.

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Answer Key, continued

14. **B. The Emancipation Proclamation**
    It declared enslaved people in the Confederate states free; the 13th Amendment ended slavery everywhere in 1865.

15. **A. Gettysburg**
    President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address there that November.

16. **B. Russia**
    The price was $7.2 million, about two cents an acre.

17. **D. Utah**
    A golden spike marked the meeting of the two railroad lines.

18. **A. Yellowstone**
    President Ulysses S. Grant signed the law that created it.

19. **A. North Carolina**
    They lived in Dayton, Ohio, but chose Kitty Hawk for its steady winds.

20. **B. 1920**
    The amendment was ratified in August 1920.

21. **A. 1929**
    The worst day, Black Tuesday, was October 29, 1929.

22. **C. Amelia Earhart**
    She flew from Newfoundland to Northern Ireland in 1932.

23. **C. The attack on Pearl Harbor**
    President Roosevelt called it “a date which will live in infamy.”

24. **A. Franklin D. Roosevelt**
    The 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951, now limits a president to two terms.

25. **B. Hawaii**
    Alaska became the 49th state earlier the same year.

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