

World Geography

Multiple Choice Questions

Name That Place

1. If you took a small boat 50 miles west of Haiti, what tiny place would you find?
 - (a) Goat Island
 - (b) Key West
 - (c) Navassa

Hint: Few have heard of this "lost island."

2. Name the world's second largest lake.
 - (a) Superior
 - (b) Champlain
 - (c) Onega
 - (d) Dal

Hint: This lake has a shoreline in the United States and a shoreline in Canada.

3. Name the river that runs from Otsego Lake to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.
 - (a) Sabine
 - (b) Susquehanna
 - (c) Stikine

Hint: Otsego Lake is in Cooperstown, New York.

4. Name the place that recorded the highest temperature to date—134°F—in the United States.
 - (a) Seymour, Texas
 - (b) Volcano Springs, Calif.
 - (c) Death Valley, Calif.
 - (d) Virginia

Hint: This spot also boasts the lowest point in the Americas.

5. At 412 billion gallons, this reservoir is the largest man-made reservoir in

THE HISTORY OF MANKIND

Prehistoric Man

The first really man-like animal was *Homo erectus*, "upright man", who walked by swinging his legs from the hip, instead of shuffling like an ape. He had a large brain, made rough shelters from branches, built fires and lived by hunting.

The successor to *Homo erectus* was *Homo sapiens*, "thinking man", the species to which we belong (see page 188). An early example was Neanderthal Man, who lived in the last Ice Age. Although he had a low forehead, his brain was as big as ours. He was a skilful hunter, travelling long distances after game, and he made tools from flints or bones. After the Ice Age ended, about 10,000 years ago, he was replaced by another type, Cro-Magnon Man, who looked more or less like us.

Although they had crude tools, shelter and clothing, our distant ancestors were part of the world of nature like other animals. They were nomads, moving camp when game grew scarce and the forest nearby had been stripped of edible fruits. But a few were able to settle down, for example by lakes where fish provided a regular food supply. The biggest change, perhaps the most important in all human history, came when they learned to be farmers, sowing crops and keeping animals. It was then no longer necessary to keep on the move. A settled life, with plenty of food, allowed civilization to develop.

Early Civilization

Civilization developed in the fertile river valleys of the Middle East about 8,000 years ago. Agriculture began about the same time in south-east Asia and China, and a little later in Central America. A steady food supply allowed towns to develop, which were dependent on trade and on plentiful wild wheat. By 3000 BC the wheel and a simple plough were in use, and bronze or copper tools were replacing stone ones.

The Sumerians

In Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, Sumerian civilization was well established. The Sumerians lived in city states, with huge brick-built palaces and many temples, for religion dominated people's lives. They used a form of writing known as cuneiform, written in damp clay tablets with a sharpened reed. The Sumerians eventually died out, but their civilization was carried on through successors like the Babylonians, Assyrians and the Persians.

the world that is devoted solely to water supply.

- (a) Quabbin in Massachusetts
- (b) Lake Mead in Nevada and Arizona
- (c) Lake Shasta in California
- (d) Hindon Lake in Dublin

Hint: The towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott were evacuated and submerged as part of the process to establish this reservoir.

6. Name the state that has the most national forests.
- (a) Oregon
 - (b) Idaho
 - (c) California
 - (d) Virginic

Hint: Tahoe National Forest is one of 20 national forests in this state.

7. Name the five states that are part of the Ring of Fire.
- (a) Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona
 - (b) Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, Hawaii
 - (c) Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida
 - (d) Alaska, Washinton, Hawaii, Aibana, Texas

Hint: The Ring of Fire is the linear zone of seismic and volcanic activity that coincides in general with the margins of the Pacific Plate.

8. Name the state that is due west of the state whose name means "green mountain."
- (a) California
 - (b) New York
 - (c) Idaho

Hint: Ethan Allen was the leader of the Green Mountain Boys.

9. The Chattahoochee River forms the southern half of the border between which two states?
- (a) Alabama and Georgia
 - (b) Georgia and South Carolina
 - (c) Mississippi and Alabama

Hint: The northern half of this border is artificially straight.

10. Name one place found in the U.S. Fall Zone.
- (a) Bridalveil Falls, Calif.
 - (b) Niagara Falls, N.Y.
 - (c) rapids in Richmond, Va.

Ancient Egypt

On the banks of the Nile another civilization developed. Unlike the Sumerians, the Ancient Egyptians were a single nation under one ruler. Their civilization was a rich and complicated one with a strict class system and slaves to do the hardest work, as in all early civilizations. It lasted with little change for 3,000 years.

The first Indian civilization appeared in the Indus Valley a little later than in Egypt or Mesopotamia, with which it had trade connections. In China, in the valley of the Hwang Ho (Yellow River), a Bronze Age civilization was established by 1500 BC.

The Greeks

The first European civilization was Greek, and even now many of our ideas can be traced back to Classical Greece.

Greek civilization dates from the Minoan age in Crete, which was established before 2000 BC, and also from the Mycenaean's who invaded Crete from Greece. Classical Greek civilization reached a peak in Athens in the 5th century BC, and was later spread over a large region by the conquests of Alexander the Great (a Macedonian, not a Greek) in the late 4th century BC. This later, universal Greek culture is called "Hellenis-tic" to distinguish it from the culture of Classical Greece.

Although the Greeks learned many things from earlier civilizations, they were unique. Their society was the first to show a capacity for change, and without change there can be no progress. Among the Greeks, much greater value was given to the individual person, and Greek city-states were the first democracies.

We know far more about the Ancient Greeks than we do about any earlier society. Some of their art and much of their writing has survived (see page 216). History, literature, philosophy, politics and science (as we think of them) all began with the Greeks.

Both as a society and as individuals, we seem to know the Greeks as well as we know more recent historical figures. Yet the Greeks were probably less like us than we imagine. Even the great thinker Pythagoras appears strangely superstitious to us today. There is a legend that he celebrated the proof of his famous geometrical theorem by sacrificing an ox to the gods.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

When the civilization of Athens was at its brilliant height, Rome was a small, struggling republic. Within 200 years it had gained control of Italy. Within 400, under the emperors, it ruled most of the known world. Even at its greatest, the empire was beginning its long decline, yet the Romans ruled Europe for five centuries.

The Roman empire was truly inter-national. A man did not have to be born in Rome to become a Roman citizen, and one of the greatest emperors was a Spaniard. What held the empire together was an excellent system of law and a widely known official language, Latin.

Another vital quality was the talent and thoroughness of the Romans in practical matters like building and engineering. The Romans expected their empire to last for ever, and built accordingly. Some of their roads and buildings can still be seen today. Living standards were more advanced than in any other European society.

By the 1st century AD the Greek and Roman gods did not inspire people with much faith. Other religious groups were growing in strength. By the 4th century Christianity was the official religion of the Roman empire.

CELTIC CIVILIZATION

In the 4th century the Roman empire split in two. The Eastern or Byzantine empire, with its capital at Constantinople, survived until the 15th century. The Western empire collapsed under attacks from tribal peoples whom the Romans called "barbarians". European civilization took a step backwards.

The Celts were originally a warrior people from central Europe who migrated west and settled in lands that are now France, Belgium, Britain and Ireland. Most of them, called Gauls by the Romans, came under Roman rule by the 1st century AD, but the Romans never conquered Scotland or Ireland, and Celtic civilization lasted in those centuries long after Roman times.

The Celts were ruled by kings and a small class of warriors and priests, known as Druids. They were skilful craftsmen, especially in iron.

After the fall of Rome the Celts came under pressure from Germanic tribes pushed westward by nomadic raiders from the east. Some, known as Anglo-Saxons, settled in lowland Britain so founding the English nation. Another Germanic people, the Franks, established an empire under Charlemagne which stretched from Spain to Scandinavia. It was seen as the successor to the Roman empire, and Charlemagne was crowned as Holy Roman Emperor by the pope in Rome in AD 800. Charlemagne is regarded as one of the founders of both the German and French nations.

THE ARABS AND ISLAM

The Middle East, which had been the cradle of civilization, ceased to occupy a central position in human history after the conquests of Alexander the Great. But it was from there that a mighty new power sprang in the 7th century.

Inspired by the new religion preached by Muhammad, the Arabs erupted from the desert into the more fertile lands of the Middle East, Southern Europe and North Africa around them. In less than 100 years they conquered an area larger than the old Roman empire and converted it to Islam.

Although this empire was made up of diverse lands and people, it was united by shared beliefs and, in general, it was a more civilized society than that of Christian Europe. It was, for instance, more tolerant: even the Christians of Egypt and Syria preferred Arab rule to that of Christian Constantinople.

Islam managed to absorb many cultural influences, of which the most important was probably the Classical tradition of Greece. This helps to explain the artistic and scientific achievements of Arab scholars, unrivalled in Christian Europe, in the 8th-10th centuries.

However, within Islam there were frequent disputes and civil wars, especially between orthodox Sunni Muslims and the anti-establishment Shi'a. With changing times and changing dynasties, Arab influence decreased and Islam broke up into a varying number of more or less independent political units, but religion and the Arabic language made Islam a continuing cultural force (see page 198).

MEDIEVAL EUROPE

The last "barbarian" invaders in Europe were the Vikings from Scandinavia, and by the 11th century they, like many earlier raiders, had settled down. Kingdoms had

Hint: A fall zone, or fall line, is the place where the upland region of continental bedrock and alluvial coastal plain meet—where the waterfalls are.

11. The gentle hills in the Southeast are known as:

(a) Piedmont
(b) Baby Appalachians
(c) Allegheny Plateau

Hint: This area includes parts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

12. Name the place to find one of the world's richest deposits of copper.

(a) Cooperstown, N.Y.
(b) Butte, Mont.
(c) Las Vegas, Nev.

Hint: The name of this city means an isolated hill with steep sides and a flat top.

13. The Grand Coulee Dam makes hydroelectricity by using the power of what river?

(a) Columbia
(b) Colorado
(c) Snake

Hint: This river runs through Canada for 465 of its miles.

14. Which group of mountains are the source of many rivers in the West?

(a) the Catskill Mountains
(b) the Smokey Mountains
(c) the Rocky Mountains

Hint: These mountains form the Continental Divide, separating rivers draining to the Atlantic and Arctic oceans from those draining to the Pacific.

15. Name the steel-making center of the Southeast.

(a) Birmingham, Ala.
(b) Atlanta, Ga.
(c) Clarksville, Tenn.

Hint: This city's nickname is "Pittsburgh of the South."

Answer Key

1. **Navassa:** Columbus managed to find the American territory of Navassa in 1507, but today the 2-square-mile island remains virtually invisible to tourists and cruise ships that swarm the Caribbean.
2. **Superior:** Lake Superior, the largest, highest, and deepest of the Great Lakes, is also the world's largest freshwater lake.

3. **Susquehanna:** In 1872, the normally quite shallow 444-mi long Susquehanna—swollen by the rains brought by Hurricane Agnes—flooded, causing one of the greatest flood disasters in U.S. history.
4. **Death Valley, Calif:** Death Valley's high temperature of July 10, 1913, is bested only by the 136°F recorded in El Azizia, Libya.
5. **Quabbin in Massachusetts:** Two huge earthen dams were built in the 1930s, using the Swift River and, seasonally, the Ware River, to create Quabbin reservoir, which is 39 square miles and has 181 miles of shoreline.
6. **California:** Our third largest state, California, boasts the most national forests.
7. **Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, Hawaii:** The states of the western seaboard, including Alaska and Hawaii, are the North American players in the Ring of Fire.
8. **New York:** Lake Champlain forms much of the border between Vermont its western neighbor, New York.
9. **Alabama and Georgia:** Originating in northern Georgia and flowing SW to the border with Alabama, the Chattahoochee River joins the Flint River and turns into the Apalachicola River.
10. **rapids in Richmond, Va:** Richmond, Va., where the James River falls across a series of rapids down to the tidal estuary of the James River, is one example of a fall line city.
11. **Piedmont:** "Piedmont" is French for foothills.
12. **Butte, Mont:** This city is the birthplace of Robert Craig, "Evel Knievel," and was named a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2002.
13. **Columbia:** Grand Coulee, now a reservoir in the Columbia basin project, was a former stream channel of the Columbia River, created during the last ice age.
14. **the Rocky Mountains:** The major rivers rising in the Rockies include the Rio Grande, Arkansas, Platte, Yellowstone, Missouri, Saskatchewan, Peace, Athabasca, Liard, Colorado, Columbia, Snake, Fraser, and Yukon rivers.
15. **Birmingham, Ala:** Overlooking Birmingham, on nearby Red Mt., is a huge iron statue of Vulcan, the Roman god of the forge.

developed, although a king was generally no more than the chief of a powerful, landowning, warrior class.

Feudalism emerged as the basic social system, common throughout Europe. The basis of feudalism was the holding of land in exchange for military service. The great nobles leased their estates from the Crown, swearing loyalty to the king and promising to fight for him in war.

Landlords and Serfs

A lord's estates were made up of territories which in England were called manors. A manor was, in practice, a self-sufficient village. Practically everything in the way of food, clothing, and tools was made locally. The lord or baron let some of the land out to lesser landholders, who might pay rent in produce or in cash and served as soldiers. But the greater part was worked by serfs. They had to work on the lord's own land part of the time, and also had to pay rent in produce for such things as use of the lord's mill or his bakery. They had free grazing for their animals on common land, but the forests (then much more widespread) were hunting reserves for the nobility.

Although they were not quite slaves, serfs had little freedom. They could not leave the district nor get married without their lord's permission.

The Power of the Church

Religion was the basis of European civilization in the Middle Ages. Bishops and abbots were great landholding lords like the barons. Every village had its church, the clergy had their own courts, and the most advanced form of government in Europe was that of the pope.

The Church had a monopoly of education and of what we would call the media. The priest was probably the only man there who could read and write.

In general the Church co-operated with the State, but as royal governments sought greater power, conflicts arose between pope and ruler. The most famous of these, between the pope and the Holy Roman emperor, the greatest ruler in Europe, concerned the right to appoint bishops (a bishop appointed by the Crown was likely to obey the king; if appointed by the pope, he took his orders from Rome). In England, a quarrel between the king and the arch-bishop of Canterbury resulted in the murder of the archbishop, Thomas Becket.

In the later Middle Ages, the huge power of the Church was under growing threat. This was partly due to weakness at the top—the failure of successive popes to keep control of the Church—partly to the growing power of kings, and partly to discontent with the way in which the Church was run. Wyclif in England and Hus in Bohemia were the most famous critics.

RENAISSANCE EUROPE

Criticism of the Church came to a head in what we know as the Reformation in the 16th century. An attack on certain Church practices by a German monk, Martin Luther, grew into a deep division which ended the universal authority of the pope and the Roman Church for ever. Protestant churches were founded in many countries, including England and Scotland where Roman Catholicism was banned. Other countries, like France, remained Roman Catholic but contained large Protestant groups. For the next century and more, religious differences added a new element to the conflicts of Europe.

An age of Discovery

The Protestant Reformation was linked with the great change in people's ideas which is known as the Renaissance. This word means "rebirth", and it refers to the rediscovery and renewal of the ideas of Classical Greece and Rome. But above all it was an age of curiosity and inquiry. Educated people became intensely interested in mankind and in nature generally. Old beliefs which had been accepted for centuries were questioned. New facts were discovered and new lands (the Americas) explored.

Change, however, takes time, and the Renaissance did not start or stop suddenly, like a war. It began in Italy, the most advanced country in Europe, round about 1300 and reached its height between 1450 and 1550. But in some parts it had little effect until after 1600. Its influence was not wholly good, either. A famous book on politics, Machiavelli's *Prince*, advised rulers to be cunning and ruthless. Murder was common. Wars were frequent.

Great Artistic Achievements

Partly because we can still see the results, the Renaissance seems to us above all, as a period of great achievement in art. For reasons that no one can explain, artists of genius were easily found—extraordinary men like Leonardo da Vinci, who filled his notebooks with drawings of machines that were not to be invented for centuries, or Michelangelo, whose long life spans the height of the Italian Renaissance.

In literature, Rabelais, Cervantes, Sir Thomas More, and greatest of all, Shakespeare (a leading figure of the English Renaissance) are only a few of the famous literary figures of the period.

Developments in Science

The new spirit of inquiry led to great advances in science. Copernicus proved that the Earth goes around the Sun, an idea fiercely rejected by the Church, which taught that the Earth is the centre of the universe. Vesalius of Pavia was the first man to make a study of human anatomy. In other sciences too, the knowledge of the ancient Greeks, which had not been improved on in over 1,000 years, was studied more eagerly and, as time went by, often shown to be inaccurate. The Renaissance marked the beginning of an age of more rapid change which has continued, at an ever-growing pace, ever since.

THE AGE OF KINGS

During the Renaissance Europe took on its modern shape. Strong kingdoms existed in Spain, France, Sweden and England. The Dutch, after a long war of independence against Spain, made their republic the most prosperous state in Europe. Germany and Italy, however, remained divided into a mass of small states.

Eastern Europe was still feudal, but in the West the economy was based on money. The military power of the nobility had declined, and monarchs were therefore more powerful. Historians speak of an "age of absolutism", though the power of the king was never absolute. There were practical limits, chiefly money. The efforts of royal governments to raise more money through taxes resulted in civil conflicts, and in England caused a civil war which, for a short time, put an end to royal government. The chief example of "absolute" monarchy in Europe was in France under Louis XIV (1643-1715). *L'état, c'est moi* ("I am the State") he is supposed to have said, and he reigned from his magnificent new palace at Versailles. However, Louis' foreign policy caused a succession of wars which steadily weakened France.

1. What are the easternmost and westernmost points in the United States?

(a) Provincetown (Cape Cod), Mass. and Eureka Calif.
(b) West Quoddy Head, Maine and Cape Wrangell, Alaska
(c) Honolulu, Hawaii and Key Largo, Fla.

Hint: Measure from the geographic center of the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska.

2. What is the speed limit in the Erie Canal?

(a) no speed limit
(b) 10 mph
(b) 15 mph

Hint: The speed limit matches the travelling speed of a Segway motorized personal transporter.

3. What geographical and meteorological phenomena are known as the "devil winds"?

(a) El Niño
(b) Chinook winds
(c) Santa Ana winds
(d) Trlinauui

Hint: The winds form between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Rocky Mountains.

4. Lake Ontario is the source for which river?

(a) Ohio (b) St. Lawrence
(c) Yukon (d) Dulon

Hint: This river empties into a gulf of the same name.

5. How many territories are currently under U.S. jurisdiction?

(a) 14 (b) 8
(c) 2 (d) 32

Hint: All but Palmyra Atoll are unincorporated territories.

6. What boundary is 1,933 mi. (3,111 km) in length?

(a) boundary between Alaska and Canada
(b) boundary between the 48 conterminous states (including the Great Lakes) and Canada
(c) boundary between the U.S. and Mexico

Hint: If you were to drive from New York to San Francisco, you would travel approximately 2,907 mi.

7. There are 92 mountain peaks over 14,000 ft tall in the U.S. Where are the majority located?

- (a) Alaska
 - (b) California
 - (c) Colorado
- Hint:** Sunshine Peak just makes the cut at 14,001 ft.
8. Which U.S. river is the longest?
- (a) Mississippi
 - (b) Missouri
 - (c) Rio Grande
 - (d) Long Island
- Hint:** This river's start is Lake Itasca.
9. Which is the only state in the US that does not have land designated as a national park?
- (a) Texas
 - (b) Delaware
 - (c) Utah
 - (d) Ohio
- Hint:** This state entered the union Dec. 7, 1787.
10. What are Lion, Lioness, Little Cub, and Big Cub?
- (a) waterfalls in Hawaii
 - (b) geysers in Yellowstone National Park
 - (c) lakes in Minnesota
- Hint:** They are found in a volcanic region.
11. What "line" separates eastward-flowing and westward-flowing waters?
- (a) Mason-Dixon line
 - (b) longitudinal axis
 - (c) Continental Divide
- Hint:** It runs through the Rocky Mountains.
12. State nicknames often reflect a particular characteristic. Which state is dubbed the Land Where the Tall Corn Grows?
- (a) Iowa
 - (b) Idaho
 - (c) Nebraska
- Hint:** The most official nickname of this state is the Hawkeye State.
13. Which U.S. coastline has the greatest length?
- (a) Gulf coast
 - (b) Atlantic coast
 - (c) Pacific coast
 - (d) Arctic coast
- Hint:** Don't forget Alaska and Hawaii!
14. Which one of these is NOT one of America's 17 World Heritage Sites?
- (a) Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Ill.
 - (b) Olympic National Park, Wash.
 - (c) Cape Cod National Seashore.
 - (d) None of the above

EMIPRE BUILDING

The age of strong monarchies in Europe roughly coincided with the reigns of great emperors in Asia. Persia (now Iran), united under the Safavid dynasty in the 16th century, reached a peak of power and prestige under Shah Abbas, "the Great" (1586-1628). His new capital at Isfahan was as brilliant as Versailles, though in a completely different style.

The Safavids belonged to the Shi'a branch of Islam. Other Muslim rulers, notably the Sultan of the Ottoman Turks, were Sunnites. The Ottoman empire was the greatest power in the world in the 16th century. Strong-minded sultans, especially Suleiman "the Magnificent" (1520-66), led their armies, including highly trained professionals known as janissaries, deep into eastern Europe.

They had already captured Constantinople, bringing to an end the Byzantine empire, in 1453. In 1529 Suleiman besieged Vienna, and the Turks long remained a threat to Europe. Vienna was besieged a second time in 1683, but after that Ottoman power declined, though the empire staggered on into the 20th century.

AKBAR'S ENLIGHTENED RULE

In India too a powerful Muslim dynasty was established in the 16th century. The outstanding ruler was Akbar (1556-1605), who extended the Mughal empire over most of the Indian subcontinent. Though won by force, the empire was maintained by good, tolerant government. Akbar married the Hindu daughter of one of the rebellious Rajput princes, and he also welcomed Christian missionaries from Europe. Like European rulers of the time, he was a great patron of the arts.

The Mughals built some of the world's most beautiful buildings, including the Taj Mahal. But later emperors lacked Akbar's wisdom. By the end of the 17th century the Mughal empire was breaking up.

CHINA AND JAPAN

China was one of the earliest centres of civilization, but it developed in its own way, influenced very little by its neighbours and not at all by Europe. Indeed, in many respects the Chinese were far ahead of Europe, yet they were a conservative people who did not believe in change.

China's long history can be roughly measured by its ruling dynasties. Periods of prosperity usually came near the beginning of a new dynasty, before decline set in and the dynasty ended in civil war.

In the 17th century the Manchu (foreigners, like earlier dynasties) seized power. They extended their rule over east Asia from Burma to Korea. Trade began with Europe (mainly tea and porcelain, or "china"), and under the scholarly emperor K'ang-hsi (1661-1722) China was peaceful and prosperous. Despite later rebellions and money shortages the dynasty survived, and the final breakdown of Manchu China's museum-like culture was postponed until the 20th century.

Unlike the Chinese, the Japanese welcomed the European missionaries. Japanese society was as advanced as western Europe though very different. In particular, it lacked a strong central government; local warlords were constantly fighting each other for land and influence.

Japan was finally unified in the 16th century. Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616) became shogun (the effective ruler, under the emperor), and his family held office for over 250 years. They secured peace and security by a policy of isolation—no foreign visitors, no foreign travel—which was only possible in an island nation with a strong sense of discipline.