

Chapter 2: The Country

1 With which regions do you chiefly associate gas reserves?

- (A) Atlantic Plain
- (B) Appalachian Plateau
- (C) Central Lowland
- (D) Great Plains
- (E) Rockies

Answer:

- (A) Atlantic Plain
- (C) Central Lowland

Feedback: The reserves in the Gulf of Mexico are alluded to in the text as are those in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

2 To what factors do you attribute the economic decline of the Appalachian region?

- (A) Gas
- (B) Oil
- (C) Atomic energy
- (D) Deforestation
- (E) Soil erosion

Answer:

- (A) Gas
- (B) Oil
- (C) Atomic energy

Feedback: The first three because they progressively replaced the use of coal that once sustained the area economically.

3 What is produced in the valleys of the western Cordillera?

- (A) Vegetables
- (B) Steel
- (C) Coal
- (D) Timber
- (E) Fruit

Answer:

(A) Vegetables

(E) Fruit

Feedback:

Due to the rich soils and a favorable climate.

4 Which issue affecting Alaska has been the subject of recent debate?

(A) Population decline

(B) Permafrost

(C) Global warming

(D) Oil exploration

(E) Gas explosions

Answer:

(D) Oil exploration

Feedback: This is an issue on which Democratic and Republican administrations have differed significantly.

5 When was the St Lawrence Seaway opened?

(A) 1825

(B) 1876

(C) 1925

(D) 1959

(E) 2006

Answer:

(D) 1959

6 What is the Superfund statute concerned with?

(A) Increasing agricultural production

(B) Toxic waste sites

(C) Preventing landslip

(D) Enforcing clean air regulations

(E) Providing safe drinking water

Answer:

- (B) Toxic waste sites

Feedback: It is part of a raft of environmental acts passed in the 1980 and 1990s.

7 Why did Indian tribes increase in number in the Great Plains between 1700 and 1750?

- (A) Because settlers had no interest in these areas
- (B) Because they started hunting bison on horseback
- (C) Because many Indians fled there from foreign settlers
- (D) They developed high resistance to European diseases
- (E) They acquired guns to protect themselves from settlers

Answer:

- (B) Because they started hunting bison on horseback

Feedback: Hunting on horseback, as opposed to hunting on foot, increased their food supply.

8 Which term best describes the American population?

- (A) Very static
- (B) Resistant to change
- (C) Highly mobile
- (D) Economically deprived
- (E) Very prone to illness

Answer:

- (C) Highly mobile

Feedback: Whilst A, B and D may apply to some of the population, C is the best historical descriptor.

9 Which city does the Erie Canal serve?

- (A) Baltimore
- (B) Chicago
- (C) Cleveland
- (D) Philadelphia
- (E) New York

Answer:

(E) New York

bFeedback: The Erie Canal connects Lake Erie and New York City.

10 What did the Piedmont provide the first industrial cities?

(A) Coal

(B) Waterpower

(C) Slave labor

(D) Iron ore

(E) Wheat

Answer:

(B) Waterpower

Feedback: From water cascading down from the Appalachians at the fall line.

11 How did New Mexico and Arizona become part of the Union?

(A) They were purchased from Napoleon

(B) They were purchased from Spain

(C) They were seized in a war

(D) They joined after the Civil War

(E) They were purchased from Mexico

Answer:

(C) They were seized in a war

Feedback: Louisiana (the wider territory not just state) was purchased from France.

12 When was the transcontinental railroad to Los Angeles completed?

(A) 1845

(B) 1855

(C) 1865

(D) 1875

(E) 1885

Answer:

(E) 1885

Feedback: Hence the high growth rate of LA towards the end of the century.

13 When did Hawaii become a US territory?

- (A) 1880
- (B) 1900
- (C) 1959
- (D) 1963
- (E) 1984

Answer:

- (C) 1959

Feedback: It only became a state in 1959 but had been a territory for much longer.

14 Which state has the highest unemployment rate in the US?

- (A) Arizona
- (B) Alaska
- (C) Maine
- (D) Nevada
- (E) North Carolina

Answer:

- (B) Alaska

Feedback: And so is its per capita income.