

Chapter 1 - Three Societies on the Verge of Contact

1. The first settlers of the Americas seem to have appeared during the Paleo-Indian era.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

2. The Archaic era marked the end of sedentary existence in Native North America.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

3. By the late 1400s, North America was home to numerous civilizations and tribes, some of which were sizeable and dominated large swaths of land.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

4. The Pueblo people were the southwestern conglomeration of tribes who lived in today's Mexico and Arizona.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

5. The kingdom of Ghana did not have any extensive trade routes.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

6. The Kongo Empire took control of Timbuktu when the kingdom of Mali collapsed.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

7. Lower Guinea was the home of the majority of Africans who came to America.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

8. Religiously, most of the Africans in Lower Guinea gave up their traditional African religions and embraced Islam.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

9. Until the twelfth century, most of Europe was an economic and intellectual backwater in comparison to China.

- a. True
- b. False

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ANSWER:

True

10. Socially, most Europeans in the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries still lived in an agrarian society on remnants of the feudal system.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

True

11. What was the significance of the discovery of Kennewick man?

- a. It confirmed that that earliest settlers in North America were of Asian origin.
- b. It presented the possibility that North American settlement happened in different waves from a variety of locations.
- c. It was the first discovery that confirmed the existence of the Aztec civilization in the American Southwest in 400 B.C.E.
- d. It indicated that the first settlers came to North America for fame, fortune, and freedom.
- e. It confirmed the Beringia theory, which stated that the first settlers of North America came following herds of woolly mammoths.

ANSWER:

b

12. The _____ were the first people to settle in North America, roughly 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.

- a. Paleo-Indians
- b. Paleolithic hominins
- c. Australopithecines
- d. Neolithic humanoids
- e. Neanderthals

ANSWER:

a

13. The _____ era was the era beginning about 15,000 years ago and ending about 10,000 years ago, characterized by initial North American settlement.

- a. pre-Columbian
- b. Archaic
- c. Renaissance
- d. Paleolithic
- e. Paleo-Indian

ANSWER:

e

14. The _____ era was the era beginning about 10,000 years ago and lasting until about 2,500 years ago; it was characterized by increased agricultural development.

- a. pre-Columbian
- b. Archaic
- c. Renaissance
- d. Victorian
- e. Paleolithic

ANSWER:

b

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15. Which of the following statements is true about the Archaic era?

- a. It was the era during which hunting was a primary source of sustenance for most people of Native North America.
- b. It was characterized by the establishment of sedentary existence in American prehistory.
- c. It was characterized by the creation of complex social hierarchical structures.
- d. It began when Columbus first landed in North America.
- e. It marked the end of the pre-Columbian era.

ANSWER:

b

16. The _____ is the North American era lasting from 500 B.C.E. to 1492 C.E.

- a. Neolithic era
- b. Renaissance
- c. Paleolithic era
- d. pre-Columbian era
- e. Paleo-Indian era

ANSWER:

d

17. Which of the following statements is true about the pre-Columbian era?

- a. During this era, people primarily followed herds of animals as their livelihood was based on hunting and gathering.
- b. People during this era were able to endure in a single location long enough to create complex, hierarchical societies.
- c. This was the era that began 15,000 years ago and ended 10,000 years ago.
- d. During this era, which began 12,000 years ago, thousands of young adults from Asia came to North America, crossing Alaska.
- e. People during this era were unaware of the possibility of a sedentary existence.

ANSWER:

b

18. Which of the following statements is true about the Incas?

- a. They were the earliest settlers of North America who came from Europe.
- b. They lived in the western coast of South America and formed the largest Indian civilization in the pre-Columbian era.
- c. They built step-tiered temples and dominated southern Guatemala and the Yucatan Peninsula from the fifth to the eighth centuries.
- d. They ruled central Mexico from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries.
- e. They built fourteen "great houses" in the Chaco Canyon as a testament to the grandness of their civilization.

ANSWER:

b

19. Which of the following statements is true about the Anasazi?

- a. They were known for their step-tiered temples and dominated the Yucatan Peninsula.
- b. They were the earliest settlers of North America who were of European origin.
- c. They built fourteen "great houses" in the Chaco Canyon as a testament to the grandness of their civilization.
- d. They ruled central Mexico from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries.

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- e. They dominated southern Guatemala and the Yucatan Peninsula from the fifth to the eighth centuries.

ANSWER:

c

20. Identify an accurate statement about the Mississippians.

- a. Their civilization was formed after the weakening and dissolution of the Anasazi civilization.
- b. They were the earliest settlers of North America who were of European origin.
- c. They built fourteen "great houses" in the Chaco Canyon as a testament to the grandness of their civilization.
- d. Their civilization disintegrated around 1100 C.E.
- e. They developed an accurate calendar and built a pyramid.

ANSWER:

e

21. Most tribes of North America were based on a _____, in which a tribe was divided into a number of large family groups.

- a. clan system
- b. feudal system
- c. patriarchal system
- d. monotheist system
- e. secular system

ANSWER:

a

22. A(n) _____ arrangement is a family arrangement in which children typically follow the clan of their mother and married men move into the clan of their wives.

- a. animistic
- b. feudal
- c. polytheist
- d. patriarchal
- e. matrilineal

ANSWER:

e

23. A(n) _____ system is a belief system consisting of belief in many deities.

- a. atheistic
- b. monotheistic
- c. polytheistic
- d. pantheistic
- e. transcendentalistic

ANSWER:

c

24. A(n) _____ system is a belief system consisting of the belief that supernatural beings, or souls, inhabit all objects and govern their actions.

- a. atheistic
- b. monotheistic
- c. polytheistic
- d. animistic

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- e. transcendentalistic

ANSWER:

d

25. Which of the following societies lived in the northeast corner of the United States?

- a. The Sioux
- b. The Blackfeet
- c. The Cheyenne
- d. The Comanche
- e. The Narragansett

ANSWER:

e

26. The Iroquois Confederacy was formed by:

- a. southeastern Native American tribes.
- b. northeastern tribes to counter the fear of attack.
- c. the Aztecs to restrict trade activities within Native American tribes.
- d. the Indians of the High Plains.
- e. European settlers in North America.

ANSWER:

b

27. Kewa was a Native American who lived in a heavily populated region of Native America in the fifteenth century. His family depended on agriculture for their subsistence and developed strong traditions in ceramics and basket weaving. His elder siblings traveled long distances to trade. Kewa and his family most likely lived in the _____ of Native America.

- a. prairies
- b. Southeast region
- c. High Plains
- d. Mid-Atlantic region
- e. Great Plains

ANSWER:

b

28. Unlike the Native Indian tribes living in the prairies, the tribes living in the Southwest:

- a. produced no pottery or basketry.
- b. relied primarily on fishing for their subsistence.
- c. depended almost entirely on local rivers for their subsistence.
- d. subsisted almost entirely on agriculture.
- e. depended almost entirely on bison for their subsistence.

ANSWER:

d

29. Which of the following was most likely the reason the Pueblo people were able to survive in the Southwest despite the limited amount of rain in the region?

- a. They developed canals, dams, and hillside terracing to control and channel rainwater.
- b. They depended primarily on fish and bison for their subsistence.
- c. They developed a primitive method of drip irrigation.
- d. They subsisted almost entirely on tobacco cultivation, which does not require much water.

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e. They traded arrowheads, furs, and wampum in return for food with the tribes in the Northwest.

ANSWER:

a

30. The beads made of polished shell that were used as currency in trading for goods among North American tribes are called _____.

- a. wampum
- b. baleen
- c. hydria
- d. travois
- e. babiche

ANSWER:

a

31. _____ is the modern religion that was probably the most powerful and vibrant religion in the world during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; its followers are known as Muslims.

- a. Wicca
- b. Jainism
- c. Animism
- d. Islam
- e. Judaism

ANSWER:

d

32. The kingdom of _____ ruled West Africa from the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, beginning a tradition of expansive trade throughout western Africa.

- a. Cahokia
- b. Aztec
- c. Mohawk
- d. Wampum
- e. Ghana

ANSWER:

e

33. _____ was a flourishing Islamic kingdom that enveloped the kingdom of Ghana by the thirteenth century.

- a. Cahokia
- b. Aztec
- c. Mohawk
- d. Cheyenne
- e. Mali

ANSWER:

e

34. _____ was the principal city of the kingdom of Mali and was the cultural capital of Africa in the thirteenth century.

- a. Lower Guinea
- b. Kongo
- c. Timbuktu
- d. Cheyenne

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- e. Benin

ANSWER:

c

35. Which of the following statements is true of the kingdom of Mali?

- a. It was enveloped by the kingdom of Ghana in the thirteenth century.
- b. It collapsed around 1500, just as sustained contact with Europeans was beginning.
- c. It was a predominantly Catholic civilization in the early thirteenth century.
- d. Islam spread most rapidly in the southernmost part of Mali.
- e. Timbuktu, the principal city of Mali, was taken over by the Kongo Empire when Mali disintegrated.

ANSWER:

b

36. The _____ was the greatest portion of Mali after that kingdom collapsed around 1500; this empire controlled Timbuktu.

- a. Kongo Empire
- b. Ghana Empire
- c. Songhay Empire
- d. Benin Empire
- e. Wampum Empire

ANSWER:

c

37. _____ was an African empire on the Malian coast.

- a. Beringia
- b. Aztec
- c. Mohawk
- d. Benin
- e. Cheyenne

ANSWER:

d

38. Which of the following African empires on the Malian coast was approached by European traders in search of goods and slaves?

- a. Cheyenne
- b. Kongo
- c. Taos
- d. Hopi
- e. Egypt

ANSWER:

b

39. Which of the following statements is true of Lower Guinea?

- a. It was the region of the kingdom of Mali in which Islam spread more rapidly than in the rest of the kingdom.
- b. It was the region that encompassed Timbuktu, the principal city of the kingdom of Mali.
- c. It was one of the regions of the kingdom of Mali in which family descent was typically patrilineal.
- d. It was the part of the kingdom of Mali in which people converted to Catholicism during the thirteenth century.

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- e. It was the region in which Africans possessed slaves, usually war captives or debtors.

ANSWER:

e

40. Identify an accurate statement about Lower Guinea.

- a. Most Africans in Lower Guinea did not embrace Islam as their religion.
- b. Lower Guinea was one of the African regions in which slavery and slave trade were absent.
- c. The people living in Lower Guinea were dependent on hunting and gathering rather than agriculture.
- d. Family descent in Lower Guinea was typically patrilineal.
- e. Lower Guinea did not have hierarchical social structures.

ANSWER:

a

41. A _____ was an agricultural estate on European land operated by a lord and worked by peasants in exchange for protection and sustenance.

- a. county
- b. tenement
- c. roanoke
- d. parish
- e. manor

ANSWER:

e

42. Which of the following statements is true about the feudal system that was prevalent in Medieval Europe?

- a. The serfs were people who were given the ownership of small portions of a large agricultural estate.
- b. The vassal had authority over all a land's inhabitants.
- c. The servants who worked for the vassals could act autonomously.
- d. The serfs who worked on manors could change their professions if they wanted to do so.
- e. The Catholic Church did not have any control over agricultural estates.

ANSWER:

b

43. In European agricultural estates, _____ were laborers in the feudal system who were protected and controlled by the vassal of the estate.

- a. manors
- b. majordomos
- c. serfs
- d. bailiffs
- e. seneschals

ANSWER:

c

44. Luis was a laborer on the land of a feudal lord in Europe. This land was controlled by one of the lords' upper-class allies, who guaranteed Luis protection in return for labor. Luis was not free to act autonomously or move without the approval of the lord. Luis was most likely working as a _____.

- a. serf
- b. vassal
- c. crusader

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- d. bailiff
- e. feoffer

ANSWER: a

45. The _____ consisted of a series of campaigns in which Europeans marched to the Middle East in an effort to seize the Holy Land of Jerusalem, which at the time was controlled by Muslims.

- a. Reformation
- b. Hundred Years' War
- c. Renaissance
- d. Black Death
- e. Crusades

ANSWER: e

46. Alberto was an Italian merchant who traded in Europe in the early thirteenth century. He mostly supplied goods that were brought to Europe from Jerusalem after the Crusades. His merchandise was sought after and deemed invaluable by affluent Europeans. Alberto most likely dealt in:

- a. spices
- b. furs
- c. arrowheads
- d. ceramic pots
- e. copper goods

ANSWER: a

47. Which of the following was one of the factors that engendered the Renaissance?

- a. The expansion of the feudal system in the fifteenth century
- b. The high level of material well-being in the great European cities
- c. The spread of atheism in the great European cities
- d. The acceptance of social hierarchies and the subordination of serfs
- e. The increased control of the Catholic Church over agricultural estates

ANSWER: b

48. The _____ was an intellectual and artistic reconnection to the age of Greco-Roman antiquity; it started in the fourteenth century and lionized the individual.

- a. Renaissance
- b. Pantheism
- c. Crusades
- d. mercantilism
- e. feudal revolution

ANSWER: a

49. _____ is the theory that a nation or state's prosperity was determined by the total volume of its trade.

- a. Animism
- b. Pantheism

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- c. Mercantilism
- d. Renaissance
- e. Atheism

ANSWER:

c

50. Which of the following was a reason for the decline of the feudal system in western Europe?

- a. Shrinking trade and the decline of mercantilism
- b. The death of many farmers caused by bubonic plague
- c. The peace treaty between England and France
- d. The waning power of the kings in Europe
- e. The decline of nationalism across Europe

ANSWER:

b

51. The _____ was the bubonic plague that started to spread in 1346 and eventually killed one-third of all Europeans.

- a. Holocaust
- b. Pequot War
- c. Renaissance
- d. Black Death
- e. Crusades

ANSWER:

d

52. The Hundred Years' War was a war waged between _____ in the fourteenth century.

- a. the African tribes and Europeans
- b. the kingdom of Mali and European traders
- c. France and England
- d. serfs and vassals
- e. the Catholic Church and Protestants

ANSWER:

c

53. _____ was the central religious force in western Europe and the sole institution with moral authority and political power over all of medieval Europe.

- a. Renaissance
- b. Pantheism
- c. Islam
- d. Mercantilism
- e. Catholicism

ANSWER:

e

54. Which of the following factors led to the development of Christian humanism in sixteenth century Europe?

- a. The slow urbanization of Europe
- b. The increased acceptance of the feudal system in Europe
- c. The decision of the Church to promote multiple religions
- d. The decline of the Reformation movement

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- e. The disintegration of monarchial powers

ANSWER:

a

55. Identify a factor that led to the development of Christian humanism in sixteenth century Europe.

- a. The increased acceptance of the Roman Catholicism
- b. The increased acceptance of the feudal system in Europe
- c. The decision of the Church to promote multiple religions across Europe
- d. The decline of the Reformation movement
- e. The consolidation of monarchial powers

ANSWER:

e

56. _____ was a renewed belief in the importance of the individual as opposed to the institution of the Church; it was characterized by optimism, curiosity, and an emphasis on naturalism.

- a. Roman Catholicism
- b. Polytheism
- c. Mercantilism
- d. Pantheism
- e. Christian humanism

ANSWER:

e

57. _____ was the practice of popes using their authority to limit the time a person's soul spent in purgatory.

- a. Christian humanism
- b. Mercantilism
- c. The selling of indulgences
- d. The Protestant Reformation
- e. The absolution of excommunications

ANSWER:

c

58. The _____ was the movement that challenged the Catholic Church to return to its unornamented origins.

- a. Renaissance
- b. black death
- c. mercantilism
- d. Protestant Reformation
- e. Catholic humanism

ANSWER:

d

59. Which of the following statements is true about the Protestant Reformation?

- a. It supported the Church's authority over the feudal lands.
- b. It questioned the practice of selling indulgences.
- c. It emphasized that the works one did to demonstrate faith led to salvation.
- d. It demanded the establishment of a church with hierarchies.
- e. It upheld the righteousness of Roman Catholicism.

ANSWER:

b

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60. _____ was the moral conscience of the Protestant Reformation movement.

- a. Afonso I
- b. Adam Smith
- c. Winston Churchill
- d. Martin Luther
- e. Thomas Aquinas

ANSWER:

d

61. The Reformation:

- a. solidified the unity of Catholic authority over Europe.
- b. hastened the development of nationalism.
- c. demanded a Church with more hierarchies.
- d. upheld the importance rituals such as the Mass and confessions.
- e. suppressed the growth of new religious traditions.

ANSWER:

b

62. Describe the lifestyles of the people of the Paleo-Indian era.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The people of the Paleo-Indian era (10,000 to 15,000 years ago) lived a wide range of lifestyles, developing many languages and belief systems along the way. Some of the most ancient peoples made spears by flaking stones and then chose “kill sites” where large herds traversed. Others hunted herds of animals across great distances. Still others slowly began to cultivate complex systems of sustainable agriculture that allowed them to remain in a single area for years. And still others depended on fishing and the riches of the seas to provide a stable life for their families. Over time, the population of Native North America grew. REJ: Please see the section "Native America" for more information.

63. Explain the importance of the Archaic era.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Between 5,000 and 8,000 years ago, a monumental transition occurred in how people lived. During the Archaic era, agriculture, not hunting, gradually became the primary source of sustenance for most of the people of Native North America. This trend was perhaps the most significant development in American prehistory, because settled agriculture permitted the establishment of a sedentary existence, without the need to pursue herd animals. The cultivation of maize, a form of corn, was one key element of this existence. Maize is a highly nutritious cereal, containing more nutrients than wheat, rice, millet, and barley. Its development was a remarkable feat of genetic engineering; some 6,000 years ago, Indians in today’s southern Mexico cultivated the crop through the careful selection of desirable seeds, ultimately producing corn. This still stands as one of the most significant instances of crop cultivation in world history. REJ: Please see the section "Native America" for more information.

64. Describe the Anasazi civilization of the pre-Columbian era.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. In the present-day United States, two of the largest pre-Columbian cultures were the Anasazi and the Mississippians. In the American southwest, the Anasazi founded a vast civilization by combining hunting and gathering with sedentary agriculture in order to sustain a large population in the arid desert of present-day New Mexico. As a testament to the greatness of their civilization, the Anasazi built fourteen “great houses” in Chaco Canyon, each one several stories tall and containing more than two hundred rooms. They were perhaps used as large apartment buildings, as the canyon served as the major trading post for turquoise and other material goods. REJ: Please see the section "Native America" for more information.

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65. Discuss the social systems of the pre-Columbian native North Americans.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Despite the wide variety of lifestyles developed by the pre-Columbian peoples, there were some broad general similarities among the tribes in North America during the late 1400s. Most of the tribes, for instance, were based on a clan system, in which a tribe was divided into a number of large family groups. They were also mostly matrilineal, meaning that children typically followed the clan of their mother and that a man, when married, moved into the clan of his wife. Matrilineal societies usually develop when agriculture is the primary food source for a society. In these societies women are in charge of farming (Europeans were universally surprised to see women working in the fields). Thus Indian women maintained the tribe's social institutions while men were hunting, fishing, or off to war. REJ: Please see the section "Native America" for more information.

66. Describe the major characteristics of the different regional cultures of North American natives.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The tribes of Native America were rich in regional variety. Most variations depended on how a tribe adapted to its surrounding terrain, and thus it is possible to make generalizations based on region. The regions are broadly classified as follows:

- The Northeast: The tribes in the Northeast subsisted on hunting and agriculture, although most of their foodstuffs derived from agriculture. Those that lived along the coast relied on the riches of the ocean. Most of these nations lived in small villages that were closely surrounded by forests that protected them from attack.
- The Mid-Atlantic: The tribes in the Mid-Atlantic region lived on a mixture of agriculture, shellfish, and game. They lived a semi-sedentary life, occasionally leaving their stable villages to follow herds of roaming animals.
- The Southeast: The tribes in the Southeast subsisted on agriculture, though those living in Florida and the Gulf Coast relied on fishing as well. They developed strong traditions in ceramics and basket weaving; they traded over long distances; and some, such as the Natchez, developed stable, hierarchical political organizations.
- The Prairies: The tribes in the prairies usually lived on the edges of the plains, where they lived in semi-sedentary agricultural villages and held major hunting parties every year to hunt bison, the chief game animal of the Great Plains. They depended almost entirely on the bison and the local rivers for their subsistence.
- The High Plains: The tribes in the High Plains depended on bison for a large part of their subsistence (especially after contact with European settlers drove them further west), and their only agricultural crop was usually tobacco (again, after contact), which they used for religious purposes and for pleasure.
- The Southwest: The tribes in the Southwest subsisted almost entirely on agriculture. By about 1200 C.E., several of these tribes had developed villages made up of several multistory buildings built on strategically defensive sites in canyons and river valleys. They developed canals, dams, and hillside terracing to control and channel the limited amount of rainwater.
- The Northwest: The tribes in the Northwest ate fish and shellfish in addition to fruits, nuts, and berries. They made plank houses of cedar, which they sometimes surrounded with dramatic carved totem poles. Accomplished artists, they placed a priority on the arts of carving and painting and developed the elaborate ornamentation we commonly see on totem poles.

REJ: Please see the section "Native America" for more information.

67. Discuss the factors that led to the formation of the Iroquois Confederacy.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Most of the northeastern tribes lived in small villages that were closely surrounded by forests that protected them from attack. An attack was always a possibility in the congested northeastern region. Indeed, fear of attack was part of the reason that several of these tribes came together to create the Iroquois Confederacy, a political and trading entity that maintained relations between several tribes. (Iroquois is actually the European name for the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.) The local forests provided

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the raw materials for wooden houses crafted by the tribes of the Haudenosaunee, who called their houses longhouses. Most of these tribes remained small, however, only occasionally trading with one another. REJ: Please see the section "Native America" for more information.

68. Describe the kingdom of Ghana in West Africa.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The kingdom of Ghana ruled West Africa from the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, beginning a tradition of expansive trade throughout western Africa using horses, camels, and advanced iron weapons to transport goods and ideas. A kingdom as rich in arts and commerce as any in Europe at the time, Ghana was made up of several large cities, where the people produced elaborate works of art and maintained a stable political structure. Ghana was especially famous for its gold. But the kingdom's extensive trade routes caused its eventual demise. In the twelfth century, it lost its trade monopoly, and gold was discovered elsewhere in West Africa. In addition, during the first half of the thirteenth century, North African Muslims used Ghanaian trade routes to invade the kingdom, and by 1235 C.E. they had conquered the ruling parties of Ghana. REJ: Please see the section "Africa" for more information.

69. Discuss the impact of the collapse of the kingdom of Mali in Africa.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The kingdom of Mali collapsed around 1500 C.E.—just as sustained contact with Europeans was beginning. Mali was divided, with the largest portion replaced by the Songhay Empire, which took control of Timbuktu. Farther along the Malian coast, the empires of Benin and Kongo were similarly approached by European traders in search of goods and, eventually, slaves. Indeed, by 1500, the ruler of the Kongo people converted to Catholicism, having been impressed by the Portuguese traders he had encountered. REJ: Please see the section "Africa" for more information.

70. What were the major cultural, political, and economic characteristics of West African societies on the eve of European contact?

ANSWER: Answers will vary. On the eve of European contact, West Africa was, in general, an agricultural society divided into villages organized along matrilineal kinship lines. Some of its people were extremely skilled in the arts, and a class of intellectuals existed who were positioned in houses of learning and supported by kings. Politics advanced in large kingdoms that oversaw and protected their citizens and that allowed for expansive lines of trade. On the whole, West Africans participated in sophisticated societies that had highly developed skills for coping with the diverse geographical settings where they lived. REJ: Please see the section "Africa" for more information.

71. Discuss the concept of feudalism in medieval Europe.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. A significant factor in Europe's withdrawal from world affairs was feudal lords' domination of large plots of European land, called manors. These men presided over a system of labor that came to be called feudalism, in which a lord granted control over a piece of land to an upper-class ally known as a vassal. The vassal's grant included authority over all the land's inhabitants. The vassals treated these laborers as servants, guaranteeing them a level of protection in return for a portion of the fruits of their labor. In reality, these servants, called serfs, forfeited nearly all of their freedoms to the lord and vassal. With the exception of the Catholic Church, the nobleman was the sole authority on the land. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

72. Compare the European and Native American societies of the fifteenth century.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. By the fifteenth century, the feudal system was rapidly declining in western Europe. In its stead, nations were becoming more powerful. Socially, most Europeans in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries still lived in an agrarian society on remnants of the feudal system, although towns and even some great cities had developed since the eleventh century. To ensure a regular food supply, all the members of

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European villages usually shared their year's crops. As with any society based on agriculture, there were gendered roles in European society. Unlike in some African and Indian cultures, women rarely participated in a town's political life or tilled the fields (but they did have lighter duties in the fields, as did children). Women's power was mostly limited to their influence on their husbands, children, and servants. In contrast, some women in religious orders (Catholic nuns) operated abbeys and wielded significant power in that realm.

By the late 1400s, North America was home to numerous civilizations and tribes, some of which were sizeable, dominating large swaths of land. Most of the tribes were based on a clan system, in which a tribe was divided into a number of large family groups. They were also mostly matrilineal, meaning that children typically followed the clan of their mother and that a man, when married, moved into the clan of his wife. In these societies, women were in charge of farming (Europeans were universally surprised to see women working in the fields). Thus Indian women maintained the tribe's social institutions while men were hunting, fishing, or off to war. This system was by no means universal in Native North America, but it does signify a level of sexual equality absent from Europe at the time. Indeed, women were just as likely as men to wield political power in some of these societies. REJ: Please see the section "Native America" and "Europe" for more information.

73. Discuss the factors that led to the decline of feudalism in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Europe. What were the most significant historical effects of the decline of feudalism?

ANSWER: Answers will vary. By the fifteenth century, the feudal system was rapidly declining in western Europe. In its stead, nations were becoming more powerful. The four causes for this transition were economic, religious, biological, and political:

- Expanding trade: The first inklings of the transition away from feudalism can be seen around 1000 C.E., when Italian coastal traders began to exploit long-distance trade routes. The riches earned at these trading posts gave several city-states the wealth and power to free themselves from feudal lords.
- The Crusades: The second reason for the decline of feudalism was religious. The search for riches fused with the power of the Catholic Church to prompt the Crusades, a series of campaigns in which Europeans marched to the Middle East to seize the Holy Land of Jerusalem, at that time controlled by Muslims. After their bloody excursions, though, crusaders brought back luxuries rarely available to medieval Europe, including spices, silks, and gems. The Italian merchants who supplied these goods grew fabulously wealthy and began to yearn for greater autonomy and freedom from the feudal system.
- The Black Death: The Black Death caused the death of at least one-third of all Europeans, and it did not discriminate by class, meaning that feudal lords died at the same rate as did the poorer members of the continent. Europe's leaders appeared weaker and more vulnerable than before. Also, the death of so many farmers meant that those who survived became more valuable; as a result, feudal lords were forced to grant them more allowances, including greater personal freedom, in order to maintain their loyalty.
- The Hundred Years' War: The fourth reason for the decline of feudalism was rooted in politics. The Hundred Years' War, waged between France and England in the fourteenth century, was significant for two reasons. First, it prodded Italian and Iberian merchants to find water routes that connected southern and northern Europe, as they could no longer safely travel by land through France. This situation spurred several technological advances that would make possible the exploration of North America. Second, the war allowed the kings to further consolidate their power at the expense of the feudal lords, leading to the rise of several large kingdoms.

As the power of feudal landlords diminished and that of the kings increased, one idea gained currency: that a person could belong to or identify with a unified nation. This, in some ways, was when the idea of nationalism was born. These changes led to the rise of nations, and the competition among these nations eventually prompted them to look outward and expand from Europe, sparking an Age of Discovery that led to sustained contact with the "New World." REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

74. Discuss the Renaissance in Europe in the late fourteenth century.

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ANSWER: Answers will vary. By the late fourteenth century, the forces of economic expansion and the development of urban life allowed for a high level of material well-being in the great European cities and the general decline of closed-off feudal living. This wealth and expansive mindset engendered the Renaissance, an intellectual and artistic reconnection to the age of Greco-Roman antiquity, when humankind was considered to be more cosmopolitan and not merely a source of labor for feudal fiefdoms. Central to Renaissance art and thought was the idea of humanism, which lionized the individual and therefore directly challenged the declining feudal system. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

75. Discuss the power of Catholicism in Europe during the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. While the system of feudalism was declining in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Catholicism was still the undisputed religious force in western Europe. Indeed, the artists of the Renaissance usually used Christian images to celebrate the new, more open atmosphere in Europe at the time. The Church exerted its greatest power amid the divided feudal society as the sole institution with moral authority and even political power over all of Europe. The later medieval years witnessed Catholicism's greatest thinker, Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), and its most powerful popes, Innocent III (pope from 1198 to 1216) and Boniface VIII (pope from 1294 to 1303). Catholicism covered Europe like a cloak, unifying many disparate feudal lands. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

76. Discuss the factors that led to the development of Christian humanism.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. By the first quarter of the sixteenth century, two impulses collided to challenge the authority of the Catholic Church. The first was a new attitude toward humankind brought about by the slow urbanization of Europe, the consolidation of monarchical powers, and the rise of popular piety. Merchants did not like the priests moralizing about their profits, and rulers did not like their authority challenged. In addition, the Church's total incapacity to confront and respond to the crises of the fourteenth century prompted several movements of popular piety. Together, these challenges led to the development of Christian humanism, which believed in the importance of the single individual as opposed to the institution of the Church. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

77. Discuss the Protestant Reformation.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. At its core, the Protestant Reformation was a movement that challenged the Catholic Church to return to its unornamented origins. In addition to questioning the selling of indulgences, the leaders of the Reformation were critical of Church rituals, including the Mass, confession rites that reinforced the hierarchy by putting absolution at the discretion of a priest, and pilgrimages to holy sites. The reformers felt it was faith in God that led to salvation, not the works one did to demonstrate that faith. As protesters (root of the word "Protestant"), the leaders of the Reformation sought a simpler church defined by an individual's relationship to God and the Christ. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

78. Discuss the role of the printing press in the Reformation.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The leaders of the Reformation, most importantly Martin Luther (the moral conscience of the movement) and John Calvin (the movement's great organizer), took advantage of the invention of the printing press (developed in the 1440s, although not used widely until the 1450s) to advocate that scripture be read in local vernacular languages like German and English rather than Latin. The printing press allowed for the quick, widespread dissemination of ideas, opinions, and scientific findings. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

79. Explain the significance of the Reformation.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The Reformation was important for at least two reasons. First, the Reformation hastened the development of nationalism by fragmenting the unity of Catholic authority over Europe. Freed from

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that yoke, European nations began to develop unique identities and consolidate wealth, which, in the creed of mercantilism, spurred aggressive attempts to expand in search of greater wealth. This would lead to the Age of Discovery and to sustained contact with both Africa and the New World. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.

80. Discuss the political and social system in Europe in 1492.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. By 1492, Europe was a dramatically different continent from that of just a century earlier. Europeans had fundamentally altered their political, social, economic, and religious structures. Feudalism, headed by hundreds of feudal lords and vassals, had collapsed, and nations, headed by a handful of kings and queens, had become the most powerful political structures on the continent, covering vast territories and allowing for the easy movement of goods and peoples. Spain was the most powerful nation in Europe at the time, France was the largest, and Portugal had the advantage of superior nautical craftsmanship. Reformers, meanwhile, challenged the righteousness of Roman Catholicism, creating schisms and, eventually, new religious traditions. And in 1492, Spain took control of the city of Granada, ending the northward spread of Islam that had lasted at least five hundred years. Merchants had arisen as a powerful force across the continent too, paving the way for capitalism to flourish and for the market to penetrate more deeply into society than it ever had before. REJ: Please see the section "Europe" for more information.