

Part 1: The Anchor Facts of American History

Write a brief description of the key event occurring at the date indicated.

1. 1492 AD

Christopher Columbus discovers America. (1 pt)

2. c.508 BC / c. 509 BC

Athenians invent “democracy.” Romans invent “republic.” (2 pts)

3. c.3000 BC

Menes Narmer unifies ancient Egypt, becoming its monarch (ruler). (1 pt)

4. 1861-65

The Civil War results in the eradication of slavery in America. (1 pt)

5. 476 AD

European barbarians cause the fall of the Roman Empire. (1 pt)

Part 2: Slavery and the Decline of the Union

6. By what means might slavery have been abolished in the Constitution of the United States before the Civil War? Why was this not possible?

In order to abolish slavery in the United States, the Constitution needed to be changed. This required a constitutional amendment. To make such a change required the agreement of at least 2/3 of the states because this was the “supermajority” needed to change the constitution. This was not possible because there were almost always an equal number of free states and slave states. (2 pts for explaining constitutional amendment process; 1 pt for impossibility, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

7. Why did the addition of Missouri as a new state in the Union create a problem? How was the problem solved?

The addition of Missouri to the Union created a problem because it wanted to join as a slave state. The problem was solved by the Missouri Compromise, which said that Maine would be broken off from Massachusetts to add a free state at the same time, and that from now on land to the west and north of Missouri within the Louisiana Purchase was off limits to slavery. (1 pt for Missouri as a slave state, 2 pts for two parts of Missouri Compromise, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 14 points

8. Why did the addition of California to the Union require a compromise? What was that compromise?

The addition of California to the Union required a compromise because it was in the southern half of the United States, but it joined as a free state, thus upsetting the slave states. The Compromise of 1850 said that the people who populated new territories could choose whether or not they wanted slavery, which was called “popular sovereignty,” and created a fugitive slave law that forced northerners to help capture escaped slaves. (1 pt for California as a free state, 1 pt for popular sovereignty, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

9. What is “popular sovereignty”? When this idea was applied in Kansas via the Kansas- Nebraska Act of 1854, what was the result?

“Popular sovereignty” was the idea that the residents of any territory could democratically choose to have slavery if they wanted it, and thus enter the Union as a slave state, if they wanted. When this idea was applied in Kansas, both northerners and southerners flooded into Kansas to compete to create a government there. Because they were so opposed to each other, there was a lot of violence to try to “win” Kansas. (1 pt for explaining popular sovereignty, 1 pt for fight for Kansas, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Part 3: Civil War and Reconstruction

10. What is secession? How did president Lincoln respond to the secession of the South?

“Secession” is the act of removing a part of a country from the whole, such as removing a state from the Union. Abraham Lincoln responded to the secession of the South by asking the remaining states to provide him with an army to stop the rebellion and keep the seceding states in the Union. This led to the Civil War. (1 pt for explaining “secession,” 1 pt for Lincoln’s response, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

11. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Did it free all the slaves? Explain your answer.

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did not free all the slaves in America. It only said that slaves in areas of states that were in rebellion against the United States at the time of the proclamation were legally free. (1 pt for “no,” 1 pt for freeing slaves in rebellious areas, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 12 points

12. If the thirteenth amendment ended slavery in America, why were the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments believed necessary? What did these amendments do?

The Thirteenth Amendment said that slavery was no longer allowed anywhere in the United States. There were two other Reconstruction amendments deemed necessary to protect the rights of freed slaves. The Fourteenth Amendment said that former slaves were now citizens. The Fifteenth Amendment added that all citizens has the right to vote and would be protected by the federal government so that they could vote. (1 pt for explaining the need to protect rights; 1 pt for citizenship; 1 pt for voting rights, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Part 4: The Industrial Revolution

13. What do the *American* Revolution and the *Industrial* Revolution have in common that makes them both revolutions?

The American Revolution brought about a new form of government (a republic) very quickly. The Industrial Revolution is a rapid transformation in the kinds of work people do in order to produce the values needed to survive. They are both revolutions because they involve important change that occurs rapidly. (2 pts for explaining the *two* common denominators, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

14. Explain the connection between means of *communication* and two values that you need to survive.

(Answers to this question will vary, but students should demonstrate a connection between the use of the telephone, cellphones, television, the Internet, or some other means of communication and one of the five cardinal survival values—food, water, shelter, clothing, or medicine. Examples should fit the following pattern: the use of 911 to get emergency medical aid; or the use of the weather channel to know to pack up and seek shelter away from an approaching hurricane; 2 pts, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 10 points

15. Explain how the Communication Revolution changed the “speed of ideas,” i.e. the speed at which ideas can be communicated across great distances.

Before the Communication Revolution ideas could only be transmitted over great distances as fast as they could be physically transported. Thanks to the Communication Revolution, ideas could move at the speed of electricity: 400,000,000 miles/hr!!! (2 pts for explaining the transformation, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 3 points

Part 5: Bonus Questions

16. What Union general besieged Atlanta and conducted the “March to the Sea”?

William Tecumseh Sherman / German Sherman (0.5 bonus pts)

17. What state was added to the Union at the same time as Missouri?

Maine (0.5 bonus pts)

18. In what war was the Battle of the Alamo fought?

Texas Revolution / War for Texas independence (0.5 bonus pts)

19. What is the name of the code used on a telegraph?

Morse Code (0.5 bonus pts)

20. In the making of clothing, what is the name of the activity that produces thread?

spinning (0.5 bonus pts)

Total points on test: 39 pts

Total bonus points available: 2.5 pts

Note: This grading key includes a suggested scoring schema that includes spelling and grammar. It may not be suitable for scoring the work of all students.