

The States of the Union

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each of the following multiple choice questions.

- 1) Which geographic factor most directly influenced the location of the first English settlements in North America?
 - a) rivers along the Atlantic coast
 - b) availability of flat land in the Midwest
 - c) mild climate along the Gulf coast
 - d) forests throughout the Middle Colonies
- 2) The original settlements in the thirteen British colonies were all located
 - a) east of the Appalachian Mountains
 - b) along the Gulf Coast
 - c) on the Great Plains
 - d) west of the Mississippi River
- 3) During the colonial period, goods were most commonly transported on
 - a) rivers
 - b) railroads
 - c) canals
 - d) turnpikes
- 4) Which city is correctly paired with the geographic feature that most directly affected its growth?
 - a) New Orleans – Pacific Ocean
 - b) New York City – Chesapeake Bay
 - c) Chicago – Great Lakes
 - d) Los Angeles – Appalachian Mountains
- 5) The relatively flat, grassy region of the United States between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is known as the
 - a) Great Plains
 - b) Coastal Plain
 - c) Great Basin
 - d) Piedmont
- 6) The presence of which pair of geographic conditions discouraged the development of a plantation economy in the New England colonies?
 - a) wide coastal plain and absence of good harbors
 - b) rocky soil and short growing season
 - c) numerous rivers and humid climate
 - d) flatlands and lack of forests
- 7) In which area did good harbors, abundant forests, rocky soil, and a short growing season most influence the colonial economy?
 - a) Southern colonies
 - b) Middle Atlantic region
 - c) Northwest Territory
 - d) New England colonies
- 8) Since the late 1700s, the Mississippi River has been a vital waterway because it
 - a) divided the northern territories from the southern territories
 - b) allowed American farmers direct access to Canadian markets
 - c) connected the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean
 - d) provided farmers and merchants an outlet to the Gulf of Mexico
- 9) Which geographic feature contributed the most to the development of commerce throughout colonial America?
 - a) mountains
 - b) natural harbors
 - c) grasslands
 - d) interior lakes

- 10) What is the best title for this map?
- a) Eastward Migration
 - b) Territorial Expansion
 - c) Results of the Revolution
 - d) Immigration before the Civil War



Source: Robert A. Divine et al., *America: Past and Present*, Scott, Foresman (adapted)

- 11) Which geographic feature formed the western border of the United States in 1783?
- a) Pacific Ocean
 - b) Great Lakes
 - c) Mississippi River
 - d) Rocky Mountains

- 12) Which geographic feature was used to establish the Proclamation Line of 1763?
- a) Great Lakes
 - b) Rocky Mountains
 - c) Appalachian Mountains
 - d) Mississippi River



Close read the following document and answer the questions below in complete sentences.

A Reading from the U.S. Department of State on the Louisiana Purchase:

“The Louisiana Purchase refers to the 530,000,000 acres of territory in North America that the United States purchased from France in 1803 for US \$15 million.

As the United States spread across the Appalachians, the Mississippi River became increasingly important as a conduit for the produce of America’s West (which at that time referred to the land between the Appalachians and the Mississippi). Since 1762, Spain had owned the territory of Louisiana, which included 828,000 square miles, and which now makes up all or part of fifteen separate states between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. Friction between Spain and the United States over the right to navigate the Mississippi and the right for Americans to transfer their goods to ocean-going vessels at New Orleans had been resolved by the Pinckney treaty of 1795. With the Pinckney treaty in place and the weak Spanish empire in control of Louisiana, American statesmen felt comfortable that the United States’ westward expansion would not be restricted in the long run.

This situation was threatened by Napoleon Bonaparte’s plans to revive the French empire in the New World. He planned to recapture the valuable sugar colony of St. Domingue from a slave rebellion, and then use Louisiana as the granary for his empire. France acquired Louisiana from Spain in 1800 and took possession in 1802, sending a large French army to St. Domingue and preparing to send another to New Orleans. Westerners became very apprehensive about having the more-powerful French in control of New Orleans; President Thomas Jefferson noted, ‘There is on the globe one single spot, the possessor of which is our natural and habitual enemy. It is New Orleans.’

In addition to making military preparations for a conflict in the Mississippi Valley, Jefferson sent James Monroe to join Robert Livingston in France to try to purchase New Orleans and West Florida for as much as \$10 million. Failing that, they were to attempt to create a military alliance with England. Meanwhile, the French army in St. Domingue was being decimated by yellow fever, and war between France and England still threatened. Napoleon decided to give up his plans for Louisiana, and offered a surprised Monroe and Livingston the entire territory of Louisiana for \$15 million. Although this far exceeded their instructions, they agreed.

When news of the sale reached the United States, the West was elated. President Jefferson, however, was in a quandary. He had always advocated strict adherence to the letter of the Constitution, yet there was no provision empowering him to purchase territory. Given the public support for the purchase and the obvious value of Louisiana to the future growth of the United States, however, Jefferson decided to ignore the legalistic interpretation of the Constitution and forgo the passage of a Constitutional amendment to validate the purchase. This decision contributed to the principle of implied powers of the federal government.”

13) What was the Louisiana Purchase?

14) Why was the Mississippi River important to Americans?

15) Why was the Pinckney Treaty significant?

16) How did Napoleon Bonaparte’s actions impact Americans?

17) Why did Napoleon Bonaparte change his mind regarding his North American territories?

18) What did Jefferson ignore when he purchased the territory from Napoleon Bonaparte?

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each of the following multiple choice questions.

- 19) Which geographic area was added to the United States by the Louisiana Purchase?
- a) Appalachian Mountains
 - b) Columbia River valley
 - c) Great Plains
 - d) Piedmont Plateau
- 20) Farmers in the Ohio River valley gained the greatest economic benefit when the United
- a) States acquired the
 - b) Oregon Territory
 - c) Gadsden Purchase
 - d) Louisiana Territory
 - e) Mexican Cession

Close read the two following documents.

Reading: Nebraskastudies.org

“For centuries before 1800, native tribal groups had inhabited the land of the Great Plains and the West. In that sense, they ‘owned’ it. Between 1650 and 1800, a series of European governments – Spain, Britain, France and Russia – all sent explorers into parts of the West and ‘claimed’ to own the land.

But in 1802, ownership of a large part of the West changed, and changed fundamentally. France sold 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River to the United States. That worked out to 4-cents per acre – a bargain even then. The lands stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border. Thirteen states were carved from the Louisiana Territory. The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States, making it one of the largest nations in the world.

France’s Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte decided to sell it to the United States to help finance his foreign wars. Also, he feared the United States would eventually take control of the area anyway, and France would receive no compensation.”

What are the main points of the passage?

The Great Plains:

“In the 16th century Spanish explorers first saw the vast expanse of the grasslands, calling them a "sea of grass." The French colonists called them prairies, which means ‘large meadows.'” In many ways this term was certainly an understatement. In the historic period of the Indian occupation of the plains, before white intrusions, the prairies covered more land in what is now the United States than any other kind of vegetation - more area than the green deciduous forests of the east which spread from Maine to Georgia; more area than the deserts of the southwest; more area than the boreal forests of the north. Walt Whitman wrote of the prairie that it was "North America's characteristic landscape," and "while less stunning at first sight" than Yosemite, Niagara Falls and Yellowstone, "last[s] longer, fill[s] the aesthetic sense fuller, and precede[s] all the rest."

The grass sometimes stood taller than a man, and in many places a horseman had to stand on his horse's back to get his bearings. The tops of the undulating grasses waved in the breeze like the waves of the ocean, stretching like an unbroken expanse of water to the horizon. Lewis and Clark saw these lands, as did Pike and Long. The first white settlers of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri also saw them, then promptly plowed them up and planted crops. This pattern continued across the plains, until by 1900 there were barely any examples of prairie land left. Getting rid of the original plants and animals of the plains so quickly contributed greatly to soil erosion and created the dustbowl of the 1920s and 1930s.

Now: Let's Label the States of the Union!



The Regions of the U.S.A.:

- 21) The Northeast (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island)
- 22) The Middle Atlantic (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington, DC, and Maryland)
- 23) The South (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and parts of Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma)
- 24) The Midwest (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, parts of Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and eastern Colorado)
- 25) The Southwest (western Texas, parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada)
- 26) The West (western Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii)



Write the name of the state next to its correct capital.

Albany	_____	Harrisburg	_____	Pierre	_____
Annapolis	_____	Hartford	_____	Providence	_____
Atlanta	_____	Helena	_____	Raleigh	_____
Augusta	_____	Honolulu	_____	Richmond	_____
Austin	_____	Indianapolis	_____	Sacramento	_____
Baton Rouge	_____	Jackson	_____	Salem	_____
Bismarck	_____	Jefferson City	_____	Salt Lake City	_____
Boise	_____	Juneau	_____	Santa Fe	_____
Boston	_____	Lansing	_____	Springfield	_____
Carson City	_____	Lincoln	_____	St. Paul	_____
Charleston	_____	Little Rock	_____	Tallahassee	_____
Cheyenne	_____	Madison	_____	Topeka	_____
Columbia	_____	Montgomery	_____	Trenton	_____
Columbus	_____	Montpelier	_____		
Concord	_____	Nashville	_____		
Denver	_____	Oklahoma City	_____		
Des Moines	_____	Olympia	_____		
Dover	_____	Phoenix	_____		
Frankfort	_____				