13 colonies quiz

20 multiple-choice questions from The Great American Quiz Book by Megan Moran. Read each question and its four options out, and teams write down a letter. The host's answer sheet (with a fact to share for each answer) and a team answer sheet to print for every table come after the questions.

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1. Before going ashore in 1620, the Pilgrims signed an agreement to set up their own self-government. What is it called? A) Articles of Confederation B) Mayflower Compact C) Halfway Covenant D) Bill of Rights
2. Which Quaker leader received a royal charter in 1681 to found the colony of Pennsylvania? A) John Smith B) Henry Hudson C) Thomas Hooker D) William Penn
3. Which of these ships did NOT carry the settlers who founded Jamestown in 1607? A) Half Moon B) Susan Constant C) Godspeed D) Discovery
4. In December 1773, protesters dumped tea belonging to the East India Company into the harbor of which city? A) New York B) Philadelphia C) Boston D) Charleston
5. Who founded Providence, the first settlement of Rhode Island, in 1636 after being banished from Massachusetts Bay? A) Roger Williams B) William Bradford C) Myles Standish D) Peter Stuyvesant
6. Which English soldier and reformer led the founding of Georgia in 1732-33, hoping to give Britain's "worthy poor" a fresh start? A) George Calvert B) John Smith C) James Oglethorpe D) William Penn
7. Which colony, whose first settlers arrived in 1634, was founded by the Calvert family as a haven for English Catholics? A) Virginia B) Delaware C) Georgia D) Maryland
8. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire made up which colonial region? A) Middle Colonies B) New England Colonies C) Southern Colonies D) Chesapeake Colonies
9. Which colonial region earned the nickname "the breadbasket" thanks to its fertile soil and big grain harvests? A) Middle Colonies B) New England Colonies C) Southern Colonies D) Chesapeake Colonies
10. Starting in 1739, teenager Eliza Lucas (later Pinckney) experimented until she made which plant-based dye a major cash crop in South Carolina? A) Madder B) Saffron C) Henna D) Indigo
11. Which 1765 British law taxed printed paper in the colonies, including newspapers, legal documents and playing cards? A) Sugar Act B) Townshend Acts C) Stamp Act D) Tea Act
12. The first battles of the American Revolutionary War were fought on April 19, 1775, at Lexington and which other Massachusetts town? A) Salem B) Concord C) Plymouth D) Worcester
13. Virginia's elected assembly, often called the first representative legislature in the Americas, first met at Jamestown in 1619. By what name is it best known? A) General Court B) Privy Council C) Continental Congress D) House of Burgesses
14. Fort Christina, built in 1638 in what is now Wilmington, Delaware, was the first settlement of which European country in North America? A) Sweden B) Netherlands C) Denmark D) France

15. Which Puritan leader brought a fleet of settlers to found the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 and served many terms as its governor? A) William Bradford B) John Winthrop C) Cotton Mather D) John Alden

16. Pocahontas, who married Jamestown colonist John Rolfe, was the daughter of which leader? A) Massasoit B) Metacom C) Powhatan D) Pontiac

17. In 1774, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies gathered for the First Continental Congress in which city? A) Philadelphia B) Boston C) New York City D) Baltimore

18. The Fundamental Orders of 1639, often called one of the first written constitutions in the colonies, were adopted by which colony? A) Rhode Island B) New Hampshire C) Massachusetts Bay D) Connecticut

19. Thanks to its thick forests and busy harbors, colonial New England became especially known for which industry? A) Rice farming B) Shipbuilding C) Silver mining D) Cotton growing

20. Roughly how many people lived in the 13 colonies on the eve of the American Revolution in 1775? A) About 250,000 B) About 10 million C) About 2.5 million D) About 25 million

Answer sheet

For the host. The facts in gray are extras to read out after each answer.

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1. **B) Mayflower Compact**
   Forty-one of the ship's 101 passengers signed it while anchored in what is now Provincetown Harbor, at the northern tip of Cape Cod.
2. **D) William Penn**
   King Charles II granted the land partly to settle a £16,000 debt owed to Penn's father, and the name means Penn's Woods.
3. **A) Half Moon**
   The Half Moon was Henry Hudson's ship on his 1609 voyage up the river now named after him. Replicas of Jamestown's three ships sit at Jamestown Settlement.
4. **C) Boston**
   Some of the protesters disguised themselves as Mohawk warriors, and more than 340 chests were emptied from three ships.
5. **A) Roger Williams**
   Convinced that divine providence had led his group to the spot, he chose the settlement's name. Massachusetts had convicted him of sedition and heresy.
6. **C) James Oglethorpe**
   He laid out Savannah in 1733 as a grid of wards, each built around a central public square.
7. **D) Maryland**
   It was named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, the devoutly Catholic wife of King Charles I.
8. **B) New England Colonies**
   Maine was never a separate colony. It was part of Massachusetts until it became a state of its own in 1820.
9. **A) Middle Colonies**
   This region's four colonies, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, grew so much grain that it became a major export.
10. **D) Indigo**
    It became the colony's second most valuable crop after rice, with exports soaring from 5,000 pounds in 1745-46 to 130,000 pounds by 1748.
11. **C) Stamp Act**
    Delegates from nine colonies met in New York City that October to protest it, and Parliament repealed the tax the following year.
12. **B) Concord**
    Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott rode out the night before to raise the alarm. A British patrol captured Revere, and only Prescott reached the town.
13. **D) House of Burgesses**
    Its first meeting, on July 30, 1619, was held in the settlement's new timber church on Jamestown Island.
14. **A) Sweden**
    The settlers arrived aboard the ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip, led by Peter Minuit, and the fort became the main base of their colony.
15. **B) John Winthrop**
    He sailed on the Arbella, one of 11 ships that carried about 700 migrants across the Atlantic that year.
16. **C) Powhatan**
    She traveled to England with Rolfe in 1616 and died there the following year at Gravesend, Kent, where she is buried.

17. A) Philadelphia

The delegates met at Carpenters' Hall from September to October 1774. Georgia was the only colony that did not send anyone.

18. D) Connecticut

Drawn up by the river towns of Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford, the document gave the future state its nickname, the Constitution State.

19. B) Shipbuilding

Cheap, plentiful timber made colonial ships so affordable that by 1775 at least a third of Britain's merchant fleet was estimated to be American-built.

20. C) About 2.5 million

Estimates put the figure at about 2.1 million just five years earlier, in 1770, a sign of how quickly the colonies were growing.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 20 questions.

Team name _____

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Total score _____ / 20

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