

American History – Primary I

Exam study guide – Fall, 2025

Questions with an * are extra credit.

1. Which saint is thought maybe to have made it to the New World? Where was he from? Be able to recognize an illuminated manuscript.
2. Who discovered the New World? In what year? Why was he taking a big risk? Did everyone at the time know that the earth was round? For which country did he sail and which queen and king? What were the names of his three ships?
 - a. *Where did he first land in the New World (what did he name the place)?
 - b. *After whom was the New World named America?
3. Who led the expedition into Mexico that conquered the people there? What was the name of those people? What are two problems with how they behaved?
4. To whom did Mary appear to help convert many of the native people? In what year? How did she appear that was miraculous? What is her title (name)?
 - a. *List 2 or 3 amazing aspects of Mary's image?
 - b. *How many Aztecs converted soon after Mary's appearances?
 - c. *Where is that image kept today (capital city of Mexico)?
5. Who are the three saints who we learned about in South America? Which one especially served the slaves from Africa who had been treated so poorly? Which two were in Lima, Peru (and knew each other)? Which one served her family at home for many years as well as helping the sick as a Third Order Dominican and wore a crown of thorns for a while? Which one is especially known for serving the poor?
6. Where else did the Spanish explore, besides Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America?
 - a. *Whose expedition first discovered the Grand Canyon?
7. Where in the New World did the French explore and settle? What river especially did they use and build cities along? Who is the father of Canada? What was the first permanent settlement in Canada and in what year was it started?
 - a. *Who was the first bishop of Canada?
8. Which Indian tribe did the French especially work with? Which tribe did they end up fighting against? In what kind of dwellings did both tribes live? Did the French try to treat the Indians well and help them?
9. Which religious order especially worked with the Indians in Canada? Who was their first leader in Canada who lived with the Huron Indians for a long time? Who came later and was

eventually captured by the Iroquois and lived with them for a year before escaping? Both of those men were martyred; how many total “North American Martyrs” are there?

- a. *Did these missionaries bring the Gospel into the Indian culture

10. Which two men led the expedition to explore the greatest river in North America? What is that river called, and can you spell it? Which of the men was a Jesuit priest who was very dedicated to Our Lady? Who first explored this river all the way to its mouth (and what is the mouth of a river)? The part of New France that was along this river, what was it called?

- a. *What is a watershed area or river basin?
- b. *What city was eventually founded at the mouth of this river?

11. What was the first permanent English settlement in North America named, when was it founded, and what state is it in (Vir...)? Who was its most famous leader and helped it survive in its first two years? Who was the Indian girl who saved the leader’s life, and eventually married an Englishman? What crop did they eventually start growing that made a lot of money?

- a. *Who were the Indians that lived nearby?
- b. *Which settlement disappeared after a couple years?

12. Why did the pilgrims leave England to start a colony, where did they settle, and in what year? Who helped them survive by teaching them how to grow food well? Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving still to this day?

13. Who founded the colony of Maryland and what was different about it from most other colonies? Which colony attacks Maryland and eventually takes it over? What happens to the Catholics in Maryland when it becomes a royal colony? Which family was the leading Catholic family in Maryland?

- a. *What title did the Calverts have? *What is the law that granted religious freedom?