

Sydney and Max Blast Through the Past

American History I: Discussion Questions

Early Native Americans

- 1) Why did the ancient Sinagua tribe choose Walnut Canyon for a settlement site?
- 2) What reasons could possibly force the Sinagua to leave Walnut Canyon?
- 3) In what ways did the Sinagua protect themselves against the harsh weather conditions?

The Pilgrims

- 1) Do you think the beliefs of the Pilgrims had any influence on early Boston revolutionaries?
- 2) How did the weather contribute to a decline in the Pilgrim's female population?
- 3) Do you believe that Plymouth Rock was the first landing spot of the Mayflower?

Salem Witch Trials

- 1) Do you believe that any of the girls who accused Salem citizens of witchcraft were actually sick?
- 2) What similarities existed between the symptoms suffered by the girls of Salem and the symptoms suffered from eating bread containing fungus?
- 3) How did the idea of witches being present in Salem escalate to the degree where so many people were accused and arrested?

Battle of Lexington

- 1) Do you think the Colonists in Lexington were prepared to fight the British?
- 2) Why didn't Sam Adams and John Hancock immediately go back to Boston after hearing that the British were coming to Lexington?
- 3) Why were the Lexington colonists instructed to hold their fire until they were fired upon?

Underground Railroad

- 1) What were the reasons some slaves were successful and others were not while attempting to escape through the Underground Railroad?
- 2) Why were slaves from the southern most states less likely to follow the Underground Railroad?
- 3) How much help did escaping slaves receive from white abolitionists?

John Brown's Raid

- 1) Do you think the actions of John Brown helped influence the decision of South Carolina to secede from the Union?
- 2) Why did John Brown fail in his attempted raid at Harpers Ferry?

- 3) Do you consider John Brown to be a hero or an outlaw?

American Cowboy

- 1) What factors led to the end of the long cattle drive?
- 2) Why were cowboys often disruptive in cattle towns after completing a long drive?
- 3) Describe the dangers faced by a cowboy during a cattle drive?

Civilization Comes West

- 1) Do you think there was any connection between the battle at the OK Corral and the building of a new courthouse?
- 2) Why would the government officials of Tombstone decide to move the gallows to a private location?
- 3) Do you think that lawmen like Wyatt Earp effectively reduced corruption and made their towns safer for its citizens?

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American History II: Discussion Questions

Italian Migration

- 1) What types of obstacles did immigrants face in the United States during the early 20th century?
- 2) Why do you think immigrants often faced discrimination from other immigrants?
- 3) Do you think that Little Italy represented a typical immigrant community?

Harlem Renaissance

- 1) What led to the development of the Harlem Renaissance?
- 2) Describe how the Harlem Renaissance spread throughout the country?
- 3) How were the Cotton Club and the Apollo Theater representations of American culture in the 1930's

Prohibition

- 1) What was the reasoning behind the prohibition movement?
- 2) How did prohibition lead to an increase in the activity of organized crime?
- 3) How were bars able to remain open during the era of prohibition?

Manhattan Project

- 1) What circumstances led to the development of the Manhattan Project?
- 2) Why was the area of Oak Ridge chosen to be a Manhattan Project City?
- 3) How was the government able to keep Oak Ridge a secret from the people already living in the area?

McCarthyism

- 1) Why do you think McCarthy made it his mission to seek out active communists within the government?
- 2) Did McCarthy violate people's constitutional rights?
- 3) Do you think Joseph McCarthy was successful in his fight against communism?

Little Rock Nine

- 1) Why did only nine African American students volunteer to attend Central High School?
- 2) What problems faced the African American students once they entered the high school?
- 3) Why was the federal government forced to get involved in the desegregation of Central high school?

Watergate

- 1) What obstacles do you think Woodward and Bernstein encountered while investigating the Watergate break in?
- 2) Do you think the President has an obligation to always be honest with the American people?
- 3) Describe how the Watergate break in may have changed the role of the press in American politics?