

Life in the New England Colonies

What was it like to live in the New England colonies? Remember that even though there are now six New England states, there were just four New England colonies: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire. The land in Maine was part of Massachusetts and the land in Vermont belonged to the New York colony.



Massachusetts was first settled by members of the religious group, the Pilgrims. This influenced how people lived in Massachusetts when the colony was first founded. The Pilgrims, or Puritans as they are also called, were known for their simple lifestyle. When the first settlers arrived in Massachusetts a top priority was building shelters. The settlers constructed homes similar to the ones they had left in England. These early homes were not built on foundations or basements. Wooden corner posts were sunk into the ground. Since there were no nails, wooden pegs were used to hold boards together. Typical homes had one main room with a large fireplace for cooking and heat. Homes might also have a second story loft for sleeping.

All manufactured goods, like cloth, pots and pans, any metal goods, and firearms, were imported from England. Colonists sent back furs, lumber and other raw materials that were available. In the early days, most colonists were farmers who needed to grow food in order to survive. New England is hilly and the soil is rocky because of the retreat of ancient glaciers left granite stones and boulders behind. It was difficult soil to farm plus the growing season in New England is quite short compared to colonies that were further south. A short growing season in summer also means a longer winter. Settlers in New England had to contend with a long, cold and snowy winter.

Over the years, as more settlers came to New England, cottage crafts developed. For example, a shoemaker made shoes from his home while the blacksmith made metal objects in his blacksmith shop. Young boys would serve as apprentices to craftsmen in order to learn the trade. Young girls learned the arts of cooking, preserving food, sewing, and spinning yarn. Towns developed and in the 1700s the population of Boston reached 20,000.

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Life in the New England Colonies Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The first New England colonies were
 - a. Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont
 - b. Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont
 - c. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire
 - d. Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island

2. The first settlers to New England came
 - a. For religious freedom
 - b. For gold
 - c. For furs
 - d. All of the above

3. The first houses in New England
 - a. Were log cabins
 - b. Were built like houses in England
 - c. Were built like Native American shelters
 - d. Were sod houses

4. The farmers in New England worked soil that was
 - a. Rocky
 - b. Swampy
 - c. Good for farming
 - d. Generally flat

5. In general, New England weather is characterized by
 - a. Long winters and short summers
 - b. A long growing season
 - c. Seasons of equal length
 - d. Long summers and short winters

6. An example of a cottage industry is
 - a. A lumber mill with six workers
 - b. A shoe shop with one shoemaker
 - c. A factory that makes furniture
 - d. All of the above

Social Studies Day 7

The Geography of North America

North America is the third largest of the seven continents. It is almost completely surrounded by ocean except for its narrow southern tip which joins the continent of South America. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north; the Atlantic Ocean and its subdivisions, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, lie to the east; and the Pacific Ocean lies to the west.

Receding glaciers at the end of the last ice age carved out basins for eight major lakes in the northern half of North America. These are the five Great Lakes that form part of the border between the United States and Canada (Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Huron) plus three lakes in Canada (Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, and Lake Winnipeg). There are many large rivers including two of the longest rivers in the world, the Mississippi River in the United States and the Mackenzie River in Canada.

North America is home to some awesome mountain ranges. Only the continent of Asia with the highest mountains in the world has more mountains and mountain ranges. The western one-third of North America is dominated by mountain ranges in a vast area called the Cordilleran Region which was affected by the Cordilleran Ice Sheet in the last ice age. Spectacular mountains begin in the north near the Arctic Ocean with the Brooks Range which runs east and west. Mount McKinley, also called Denali, is the tallest mountain in North America. It is part of the Alaska Range which also runs east and west.

The Alaska Range is part of the upper reaches of the Rocky Mountains that extend for 3,000 miles north and south through Canada and the United States to the Mexican border. The Rocky Mountains are known for their scenic beauty and are home to unique North American plants and animals. Mountainous regions continue southward all the way into Central America. The Appalachian Mountains extend for about 2,500 miles on the east side of North America.

North America is home to major desert areas, especially in southwestern states of the United States and northern Mexico. There are four major deserts: Great Basin Desert, Mojave Desert, Chihuahuan Desert, and Sonoran Desert.

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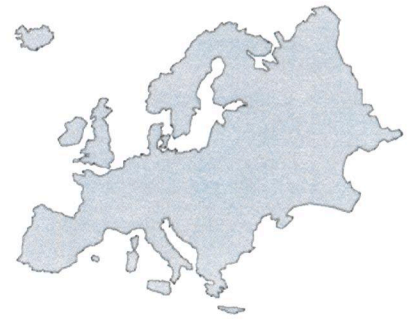
The Geography of North America

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following bodies of water borders on North America?
 - a. Indian Ocean
 - b. Arctic Ocean
 - c. Mediterranean Sea
 - d. All of the above
2. The five Great Lakes of North America include
 - a. Lake Ontario
 - b. Great Bear Lake
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above
3. Where in North America are the Rocky Mountains?
 - a. North
 - b. South
 - c. East
 - d. West
4. Which continent has more mountains than North America?
 - a. South America
 - b. Europe
 - c. Asia
 - d. All of the above
5. The Cordilleran Region of North America is named for
 - a. A mountain range
 - b. An ice sheet
 - c. A chain of volcanoes
 - d. A body of water
6. Which of the following is a desert in North America?
 - a. Cordilleran Region
 - b. Denali
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

The Geography of Europe



Europe is a small continent, larger only than the smallest continent in the world, Australia. Technically Europe is not a distinct continent like South America or Australia because it is broadly connected to the continent of Asia. The entire landmass of Europe and Asia together is named Eurasia. What geographers call the continent of Europe is in reality a huge peninsula at the western edge of Eurasia. However, the cultures of Europe and Asia evolved as very different from each other and, in general, historians consider them as separate continents even though geographers might prefer to look at just one combined continent.

Europe is bordered to the north by the Arctic Ocean; to the west by the Atlantic Ocean; to the south by the Mediterranean Sea, a subdivision of the Atlantic Ocean; and to the east by Asia. The line between Europe and Asia is generally defined at the Ural Mountains of Russia, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus Mountains which run between the Black and Caspian Seas. The Black Sea is an inland saltwater sea that connects through narrow channels to the Aegean Sea. The Aegean Sea is part of the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek peninsula. The Caspian Sea is a large saltwater lake, the largest lake in the world, second only to Lake Superior in North America. Europe is the location of many famous rivers including Volga (the longest river in Europe), Danube, Don, Rhine, and Seine.

Europe is home to numerous peninsulas where people developed unique cultures over the centuries. Major peninsulas include Iberian, Italian, Greek and Scandinavian. Europe includes all the islands in the Mediterranean Sea such as Sicily and Corsica plus islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Islands in the Atlantic Ocean that are part of Europe are the British Isles and Iceland. In modern times the countries of Europe are uniting the form the EU or European Union in order to compete more aggressively in the world economy.

Europe is home to numerous mountain ranges. Perhaps the most famous mountains of Europe are the Alps which are primarily found in the countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The Pyrenees Mountains are located between France and Spain while the Apennines are located in Italy.

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The Geography of Europe Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following bodies of water borders on Europe?
 - a. Atlantic Ocean
 - b. Arctic Ocean
 - c. Mediterranean Sea
 - d. All of the above

2. Which of the following bodies of water separates Europe from Asia?
 - a. Mediterranean Sea
 - b. Caspian Sea
 - c. Atlantic Ocean
 - d. Pacific Ocean

3. The largest lake in the world is
 - a. Caspian Sea
 - b. Black Sea
 - c. Lake Superior
 - d. Mediterranean Sea

4. Which of the following is the name of a peninsula of Europe?
 - a. Scandinavian
 - b. French
 - c. Asian
 - d. Spanish

5. The longest river in Europe is the
 - a. Danube
 - b. Rhine
 - c. Volga
 - d. Seine

6. What country is home to the Apennine Mountains?
 - a. Italy
 - b. France
 - c. Spain
 - d. Greece

Geography of Ancient Egypt



The timeline of Ancient Egypt begins some 8,000 years ago around 6,000 BCE when early farmers discovered how fertile the soil around the Nile River was. These successful farming efforts eventually led to an amazing civilization that flourished for thousands of years. The Nile River is one of the major rivers of the world and is considered to be the longest river on earth. The Nile River flows through desert areas and since the river floods regularly, the silt it deposits makes fertile land along the river. Without the Nile River, the Ancient Egyptian civilization would not have been possible.

The Nile River is located in the northeastern corner of the continent of Africa and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Near the Mediterranean Sea the Nile River splits into two branches and the Nile Delta is located between them. Besides the two major branches, the Nile Delta contains smaller outflows that flow into the Mediterranean Sea. The land between these rivers and streams is very fertile and helped the Ancient Egyptians to raise crops like wheat and flax. With a surplus of crops the Egyptians could trade with other areas and support cities, an army and powerful kings.

The Nile Delta was home to many Egyptian cities including Rosetta, Buto, Sais, and Heliopolis. When Alexander the Great of Macedonia in Ancient Greece conquered Egypt in 33 BCE he created Alexandria at the western edge of the Nile Delta to be the new capital of Egypt. The city was known as a trading port on the Mediterranean Sea and its library contained copies of the most important books ever written. Archaeologists are discovering important artifacts from ancient Alexandria in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of present-day Alexandria. They believe that parts of Alexandria might have sunk into the sea due to earthquake activity in ancient times.

The Great Pyramid at Giza is located slightly southwest of the Nile Delta. The Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Karnak and the city of Thebes (called Luxor today) are located in what was called Upper Egypt further south of the Mediterranean Sea along the Nile River. The Red Sea formed the eastern boundary of Ancient Egypt and the desert was the western boundary.

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Geography of Ancient Egypt Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

- Which of the following statements about the Nile River is true?
 - The Nile is considered to be the longest river in the world.
 - The Nile is considered to be the deepest river in the world.
 - The Nile is considered to be the widest river in the world.
 - All of the above
- Ancient Egyptian civilization was able to develop because it was close to the
 - Mediterranean Sea
 - Red Sea
 - Western desert
 - Nile River
- Egypt is located in the continent of
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - Europe
 - South America
- Major crops of Ancient Egypt were
 - Wheat and corn
 - Corn and flax
 - Wheat and flax
 - Barley and cotton
- The city of Alexandria was known in ancient times because
 - It became the capital of Egypt
 - It was an important trading port
 - It had a famous library
 - All of the above
- The Red Sea forms part of which border of Egypt?
 - Northern
 - Southern
 - Eastern
 - Western

Famous Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt

The kings of Ancient Egypt are better known as the pharaohs of Egypt. Modern Egypt no longer has pharaohs as leaders. However, pharaohs ruled as kings and, like kings, pharaohs were succeeded after death by members of their royal family, usually the oldest son. At times a military or other leader was able to take over the throne and his family became the new royal family. Historians call the takeover by a new ruler whose family then rules for a long time as the start of a new dynasty.



The Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt began around 2650 BCE during the third Egyptian dynasty. Djoser was the second king in the third dynasty. A talented architect and scholar named Imhotep built the first Egyptian pyramid, a step pyramid, for Djoser. Imhotep was so admired by the Egyptian people that he was later worshipped as a god. The first king of the fourth dynasty, Seneferu, built the first true pyramid and historians believe he is buried in the ancient Red Pyramid. Seneferu's son, Khufu, built the Great Pyramid at Giza. Khufu is sometimes called by the Greek version of his name, Cheops. Khufu's son Khafre and grandson Menkaure became pharaohs of Egypt and built their own burial pyramids at Giza. The Old Kingdom ended around 2134 BCE.

After the Old Kingdom ended the provinces of Egypt were ruled by nomarchs, like governors of states. Then the rulers of Thebes took power and moved the capital of Egypt to their city. Three kings from Thebes – Tao I, Kamose and Ahmose – started military campaigns to drive out the foreign rulers who had taken over the northern part of Egypt. Around 1550 BCE what historians call the New Kingdom of Egypt, which included the 18th to 20th dynasties, began.

The pharaohs of the 18th dynasty – Ahmose, Amenhotep I and Tuthmosis I – expanded the Egyptian Empire to the north and south. Hatshepsut, the wife of Tuthmosis II, ruled Egypt after her husband died while his son was too young to rule. She had herself crowned as the first woman pharaoh. Tuthmosis III eventually became pharaoh and history remembers him as a great warrior who led military campaigns against the Syrians. Ramesses II was the builder of many elegant temples and ruled for 67 years. Many of the pharaohs, including the Boy King Tutankhamun, are buried in the Valley of the Kings.

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Famous Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. When a pharaoh in Ancient Egypt died he was succeeded by
 - a. Whoever the people selected.
 - b. Whoever the Senate selected.
 - c. Whoever the elders selected.
 - d. His oldest son or other close relative.
2. The builder of the first Egyptian pyramid was
 - a. Imhotep
 - b. Ahmose
 - c. Amenhotep
 - d. Tuthmosis
3. Who is buried at the Great Pyramid at Giza?
 - a. Khufu
 - b. Cheops
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above
4. Between the Old Kingdom and the New Kingdom of Ancient Egypt the capital was located at the city of
 - a. Cairo
 - b. Alexandria
 - c. Thebes
 - d. Karnak
5. The first female ruler of Ancient Egypt was
 - a. Ramesses
 - b. Hatshepsut
 - c. Tutankhamun
 - d. Khafre
6. Many of the kings of the New Kingdom of Ancient Egypt are buried at
 - a. The Valley of the Kings
 - b. Giza
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above