

CONFRONTATION OF CULTURES

Multiple Choice Type Questions

1. Who built roads through mountains from Ecuador to Chile?
(a) German
(b) Incas
(c) Maya
(d) Aztecs
2. When Christopher Columbus reached the islands of Cuban scan, he mistook it for
(a) Andaman
(b) Australia
(c) Japan
(d) Malaysia
3. Who destroyed the Inca civilization?
(a) German
(b) British
(c) Spanish
(d) French
4. In 1519, the group that was trying to secede from the Aztec rule of king Montezuma was.
(a) Castillo
(b) Malinchista
(c) Tlaxcala's
(d) Tectonics
5. The first formal Portuguese capital in South America was.
(a) Salvador
(b) Cuba
(c) Bahamas
(d) Bahia/Salvador

Answer

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (d)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Ghana is called the "land of gold". Why?

Answer: Ghana is located in the north-west of upper course of the Niger River. Ghana captured and controlled some areas of gold deposits in the 18th century. After that gold became the most important item of Ghana's trade. That is why it is called the 'land of gold'.

2. What were the common features of early American civilization?

Answer: Following were the main features of early American civilization:

- In early American civilization people were more skilled in the art of stone. Their tools were made up of stones. Metals were used to make ornaments only.
- Agriculture was their main profession.
- The people of early American civilization were not familiar with cattle rearing.
- Utensils, weaving, etc. were made by the people of this civilization.

3. Africa was called the 'Dark Continent' during the medieval period. Why?

Answer: Africa was called the 'Dark Continent' during the medieval period due to the following reasons:

- Africans lived a primitive and underdeveloped life. They were ignorant people. So the continent was known as 'Dark Continent'.
- The world was unaware of the resources of African continent. There are a lot of natural resources in Africa.
- African land was full of surprises. Europeans and colonials migrated to Africa.
- The varied culture and traditions were explored by tourists and visitors to this land. Name a few navigators who threw light on their discoveries in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- The three famous navigators in the 15th and 16th centuries were Columbus, Vasco-da- Gama and Magellan.

❖ **They made a lot of contribution in the following fields:**

1. **Columbus:** Columbus was a famous Italian navigator. He wanted to discover the route to India. Columbus discovered the Americas in 1492 AD during the course of his voyage to the west.
2. **Vasco-da-Gama:** Vasco-da-Gama was a famous Portuguese navigator. He arrived India in 1498 C.E through the Cape of Good Hope. Thus, he discovered a sea-route to India.
3. **Magellan:** Magellan was also a Portuguese navigator. In 1519 C.E., he discovered the Philippine Islands and South America.

4. Write a short note on the Mayan culture.

Answer:

- The Mayan culture flourished between 11th and 14th centuries in Mexico, but in the sixteenth century they had less political power than the Aztecs.
- They performed religious ceremonies that were centered on the planting, growing and harvesting of corn.
- Agricultural production was at its peak. Astronomy and mathematics developed a lot in this culture.
- They devised a pictographic form of writing.

5. Discuss in brief the early people and geographical features of America.

Answer: Since a very long time, the people have inhabited North and South America and its nearby islands. Asian people and the people of South Sea Islands also inhabited there. South America was covered with intensely dense forests and mountains. The Amazon river flowed through the dense forests of this region. In Central America, the settled areas of habitation were there along the coast and in the plains.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

1. Discuss in detail the arguments that were placed in favor of the continuation of slavery.

Answer: King of Spain, Philip II, publicly banned forced labour. A law was enacted in 1609 CE. Under which the local people, Christians and non-Christians were given full liberty. The European settlers were enraged over this law. After the completion of two years, they forced the king to scrap this law and to permit enslavement once again.

New economic activities began. Lands covered with forests were cleared. Cattle-rearing was started. After the discovery of gold in 1700 CE, mining work began in full swing. But for this work, there was the need of cheap labour. Abolishment of slavery was the matter of debate in 1780s. Some were of the opinion that even before the entry of Europeans in this trade, slave existed in Africa. After 15th century, slaves formed the bulk of the labour force in the states of Africa. Some Africans helped the Europeans to capture youngsters so that they could be sold as slaves. For this, they were given crops by the European traders.

The only alternative was to bring slaves from Africa to meet this problem. More than 36 lac African slaves were brought into Brazil between 1554 and 1885 CE. In 1750 CE. Some people were there who owned thousands of slaves. There were some debates from the 1780s on abolishing slavery. Some people argued that slavery existed in Africa even before the entry of Europeans in this trade. It is right that after the fifteenth century, in the states formed in Africa, slaves formed the bulk of the labour force. They also argued that few Africans even helped the Europeans to capture young men and women so that they could be sold as slaves. In return, European traders gave them crops imported from South America.

2. "Cortes without any explanation placed the emperor under house arrest and attempted to rule his name." Explain how it happened?

Answer:

- Mexico was conquered by Cortes and his soldiers. In 1519, Cortes sailed from Cuba to Mexico, where he made friends with the Tectonics. It was a group who wanted to secede from Aztecs rule. The Aztecs king, Montezuma, sent an official to meet him. He was terrified at the aggressiveness of the Spanish, their gunpowder and their horses. Montezuma himself was convinced that Cortes was reincarnation of an exiled God who had returned to avenge himself.
- The invading Spaniards were dumbstruck at the sight of Tenochtitlan. It was five times larger than Madrid and had about 1 lac inhabitants. It was twice the population of Seville, the largest city of Spain.
- Cortes was cordially received by Montezuma. The Aztecs took the Spaniards into the heart of the city, where the emperor showered them with gifts. His people were apprehensive, having heard of the massacre of the Tlaxcalans.
- The fears of the Aztecs proved to be well founded. Without any explanation, Cortes put the emperor under house arrest and attempted to rule in his name. Cortes also installed Christian images in the Aztec temple. Montezuma suggested a compromise and placed both Aztec and Christian images in the temple.
- The high-handedness of the Spanish occupation and their incessant demands for gold provoked a general uprising. Alvarado ordered a massacre during the Aztecs spring festival of Huitzilopochtli. When Cortes returned on 25 June, 1520, he had on his hands a full-blown crisis. The Spaniards faced acute shortage of food and drinking water.
- The Aztecs continued to fight the Spaniards. Around 600 conquistadors and more of their Tlaxcalan allies were killed in what is known as the 'night of tears'. Cortes was forced to retreat to Tlaxcala to plan his strategy, against the newly elected king, Cuatemoc. With just 180 soldiers and 30 horses, Cortes moved

into Tenochtitlan as the Aztecs prepared for their final stand. The Aztecs thought they could see omens foretelling that their end was near, and because of this the emperor chose to give up his life.

3. Discuss the following with regard to the people of the native Mayan civilization:

- (a) Society
- (b) Religion
- (c) Science

Answer: The Mayan civilization occupied a distinct place in the Native American civilization.

- a) **Society:** Priest was the chief of the Mayan society. They were highly respected. They had full control on government. So far state was concerned, they had the full authority but at local level, there was a provision of self-government. Agriculture was the backbone of the Mayan society. Corn was the main crop of the Mayans. Some people were engaged in weaving and dying of clothes while corn, beans, potato, papaya, etc. were major food items of people.
- b) **Religion:** Gods and goddesses were worshiped by Mayan people. These included the gods of forest, rain, fertility, fire and corn. For more rains people pleased gods. Human sacrifice was also in practice.
- c) **Science:**
 - 1. The Mayans made tremendous progress in the field of science. They invented a calendar. This calendar symbolized their progress in astronomy. According to this calendar, there were 365 days and 18 months in a year. Each month had 20 days.
 - 2. The Mayans imparted the knowledge of zero in mathematics.
 - 3. Hieroglyphic script was their other achievements. It can be said that the Mayan civilization did not lag behind the other American civilizations on any aspect.

4. Why were Spanish and Portuguese rulers in particular so respective to the idea of funding a maritime quest?

Answer: European economy went through the phase of a decline from the mid-fourteenth to mid-fifteenth centuries. Due to plague and wars, a lot of people died in various parts of Europe. Trade became slack. There was a shortage of gold and silver, used for making European coins. In the late fourteenth century, long-distance trade declined, and then became difficult after the Turks conquered Constantinople in 1453. Italians established their business with Turks. They were now required to pay higher taxes on trade. The possibility that more people could be brought into the fold of Christianity made devout Christian Europeans ready to face adventure. After this, 'the Crusades' against the Turks began as a religious war. They increased Europe's trade with Asia and created a taste for the products of Asia, especially spices. Its trade could be followed by political control, with European countries establishing colonies in regions. Gold and spices were found in new regions. Portugal was a small country which got independence from Spain since 1139 which had developed fishing and sailing skills, took the lead. Prince Henry of Portugal attacked Ceuta in 1415. After that, more expeditions were organized and the Portuguese established a trading station in Cape Bojador in Africa.

In Spain, economic reasons encouraged individuals to become knights of the ocean. The memory of the Crusades and the success of the Reconquista fanned private ambitions and gave rise to contracts known as Capitulations. Under these contracts, the Spanish ruler claimed rights of sovereignty over newly conquered territories and gave rewards to leaders of expeditions in the form of titles and the right to govern the conquered lands.

5. What do you know about the Arawakian Lucayos? Discuss the way of life the Arawakian Lucayos led.

Answer: The Arawakian Lucayos inhabited a cluster of small islands in the Caribbean Sea and the Greater Antilles. They had been expelled by the Caribs from the Lesser Antilles.

The Arawakian Lucayos always preferred negotiations. They ignored conflict. They were boat-builders and used to sail the open sea in canoes made from hollow tree trunks. They lived on hunting, fishing and agriculture. Corn, sweet potatoes, tubers and cassava were major agricultural produce. The Arawakian people produced food collectively and fed everyone in the community.

The Arawakian Culture: The Arawakian people were organized under the elders of the clan. The tradition of polygamy was common. They were animists. In many other societies, shamans played an important role as healers and intermediaries between this world and that of the supernatural.

Relations with Europeans: The Arawakian people wore the ornaments made of gold. They did not give as much value to the gold as the Europeans did. Gold was exchanged for glass beads. The Arawakian Lucayos people were quite happy with this. These beads looked more beautiful. They were highly skilled in the art of weaving. It was much developed. The hammock was one of their specialties.

The Arawakian people were very generous. They always collaborated with the Spanish in their search of gold. When the Spanish policy became brutal, they resisted. Its results were quite disastrous.