

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 12: Slavery in America: From the Founding to America's Second Founding 12.6 Test Your Knowledge

SLAVERY IN AMERICA

Complete the questions in the following quiz to test your knowledge of basic ideas and concepts covered in this module.

1. During the colonial period, slavery in America was _____.
 - a. Only a Southern phenomenon
 - b. Practiced in both Northern and Southern colonies
 - c. Abolished in every Northern colony
 - d. Prohibited by order of the King of England
2. Although founders like George Mason, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson expressed a desire to end slavery in theory, _____.
 - a. They were only able to free the enslaved persons they had held
 - b. They saw no problems with the institution of slavery
 - c. They were never able to reconcile slavery or free the people they enslaved
 - d. They succeeded in eliminating slavery only in Virginia
3. Which founder, when discussing his involvement with slavery, admitted that "I am drawn along by the general inconvenience of living without them, I will not, I can not, justify it."
 - a. Patrick Henry
 - b. George Mason
 - c. George Washington
 - d. Thomas Jefferson
4. A year after the Declaration of Independence, this man submitted a petition to the Massachusetts legislature, arguing for the abolition of slavery.
 - a. John Adams
 - b. Paul Revere
 - c. Prince Hall
 - d. Crispus Attucks
5. At the Constitutional Convention, where 25 of the 55 delegates were slaveholders, the framers _____.
 - a. Abolished slavery throughout the United States
 - b. Refused to write explicit protection for the "right to property in man"
 - c. Enshrined protections for slaveholders in the Constitution
 - d. Both B and C

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6. Which of these is *not* true about the Constitution?
 - a. It mentions slavery by name.
 - b. It includes a Slave Trade Clause.
 - c. It includes a Three-Fifths Clause.
 - d. It includes a Fugitive Slave Clause.

7. Because the House of Representatives is drawn based on each state's population, a key question at the Convention was how to count the enslaved population. Ultimately, the delegates decided to _____.
 - a. Compromise and count enslaved persons as three-fifths of a person
 - b. Count enslaved persons as whole persons, as Southerners wanted
 - c. Exclude enslaved persons from the count, as some anti-slavery delegates wanted
 - d. Postpone the debate until the next presidential election

8. Although some northern states had begun to abolish slavery and the practice itself was banned in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the Fugitive Slave Clause _____.
 - a. Protected runaway slaves who were in hiding
 - b. Provided land in the Northwest Territory for runaway slaves
 - c. Allowed Southern slaveholders to go into Northern states to retrieve enslaved people who had escaped
 - d. Declared everyone who lived north of the Mason-Dixon line to be free

9. By the time of the founding, even many slaveholders opposed the inhuman Atlantic slave trade. However, the issue led to heated debates at the Constitutional Convention, where the delegates ultimately agreed to _____.
 - a. End the slave trade immediately, even though South Carolina threatened to walk out of the Convention
 - b. Compromise by allowing Congress to ban the slave trade after 20 years
 - c. Allow the slave trade to continue indefinitely
 - d. Permit only the wealthiest merchants to continue in the slave trade

10. The anti-slavery movement was part of America from the beginning. In January 1777, Prince Hall, a free African American in Boston, offered a petition for freedom in Massachusetts, drawing on the promises of the Declaration of Independence. By 1783, _____.
 - a. Massachusetts had passed a stronger fugitive slave law
 - b. Boston voted to protect the slave trade
 - c. Massachusetts' highest court would declare slavery unconstitutional
 - d. Paul Revere had told everyone about Prince Hall's petition

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11. In his final public act, this framer and president of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society sent a petition to Congress calling for the abolition of slavery and an end to the slave trade.
- Benjamin Franklin
 - George Washington
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - James Madison
12. Abolition, the movement to end slavery, gained momentum in the early-to-mid 1800s. What was true about the abolition movement?
- It was made up of only free blacks and former enslaved persons.
 - It included only wealthy whites from the New England states.
 - It was an interracial movement, bringing African American and white Americans, women and men alike, together in a common cause.
 - It only supported the expansion of slavery into western territories.
13. Ideas about freedom, equality, and the Constitution that emerged in the anti-slavery movement became the foundation for rise of Abraham Lincoln and the birth of this political party.
- Federalist Party
 - Republican Party
 - Whig Party
 - Democratic Party
14. A major division emerged among abolitionist and anti-slavery leaders over the relationship between slavery and the Constitution. Radical abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips argued that _____.
- The Constitution was a pro-slavery compact
 - The Constitution was “a covenant with death and an agreement in hell”
 - The only way to end slavery was through moral persuasion and activism
 - All of the above
15. In contrast, some read the Constitution as a “glorious liberty document.” In 1860, _____, a formerly enslaved person and influential abolitionist, urged that the North should “now make that instrument bend to the cause of freedom and justice.”
- Frederick Douglass
 - Ella Baker
 - Martin Luther King Jr.
 - Malcolm X

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16. In 1852, Frederick Douglass criticized the celebration of this holiday as a sham, given that millions of Americans were still enslaved.
- New Years Day
 - The Fourth of July
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas
17. Many anti-slavery advocates, including Abraham Lincoln, thought that the Constitution didn't empower the national government to attack slavery where it already existed. These advocates_____.
- Didn't mind as long as slavery wasn't in their own state
 - Agreed that the Constitution was a pro-slavery document
 - Hoped to prohibit slavery's expansion into western territories
 - Never believed that America would abolish slavery
18. In 1857, the Supreme Court made its most important—and infamous—decision on slavery, arguing that African Americans “had no rights that a white man was bound to respect.” The name of this infamous case was _____.
- Marbury v. Madison*
 - Dred Scott v. Sandford*
 - Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - Brown v. Board of Education*
19. Drawing on his war powers as president, Abraham Lincoln issued this historic declaration on January 1, 1863, both affirming what was already happening and setting a new baseline for the treatment of slavery after the war.
- The Declaration of Sentiments
 - The Gettysburg Address
 - The Emancipation Proclamation
 - The Civil Rights Act
20. After the Civil War, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments abolished slavery, wrote the Declaration of Independence's promise of freedom and equality into the Constitution, and banned racial discrimination in voting. This period, which some historians call America's “Second Founding,” is also known as_____.
- Reconstruction
 - Antebellum
 - The Progressive Era
 - The New Deal

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Answer Key

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. A
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. C
11. A
12. C
13. B
14. D
15. A
16. B
17. C
18. B
19. C
20. A