

Multiple-choice questions

1. Most American scientists accept the theory that humans migrated to North America following large mammals across the Bering Strait. Most American Indian peoples
- a. accept this theory as the only explanation for their presence here.
 - b. believe that they have always lived in their homelands because traditional stories place them squarely in the world created for them by the gods.
 - c. point to their migration stories from the north as supporting the Bering Strait theory.
 - d. have no stories of creation.

Ans: b

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2. Before European settlement, California Indians spoke about _____ different languages and numbered about _____.
- a. one hundred; three hundred thousand
 - b. one hundred; three million
 - c. ten; three hundred thousand
 - d. ten; three million

Ans: a

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3. Anthropologists generally classify the earliest California inhabitants into six groups based on their
- a. religious practices.
 - b. linguistic origins.
 - c. places of origin.
 - d. territorial regions.

Ans: b

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4. Which of the following statements about California's deserts is *not* accurate?
- a. They contain very little plant or animal life.
 - b. One of them includes the lowest point in the United States.
 - c. Several lakes and rivers run through them.
 - d. They are bordered by some of the highest mountains in the United States.

Ans: a

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5. Acorns were an important food source for most California Indians with one significant problem:
- a. They contain a poison, tannic acid, which must be leached out using a time-consuming process.
 - b. Each oak tree produces only a few pounds of acorns, so harvesting enough takes a long time.
 - c. Oak trees grow in only a few parts of California, so Indians who lived in other regions had to trade for acorns.
 - d. Acorns were plentiful but not highly nutritious.

Ans: a

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6. California Indians used fire to manage their environment for all of the following purposes *except*
- a. to destroy plants on which enemy tribes relied.
 - b. to clear space for grasses to grow and game to forage.
 - c. to create a layer of ash to nourish the seed-bearing grasses of the next season.
 - d. to drive game into traps.

Ans: a

7. Which of the following statements best describes the Indian concept of land?

- a. They saw land as a resource for human benefit.
- b. Their concept of land was similar to that of Europeans in that they believed in land ownership as the organizing principle of society.
- c. Their relationship to land included a strong spiritual component that closely connected them to their environment.
- d. Because they saw land as sacred, most Indians in California did not in any way want to alter their environment.

Ans: c

8. What percentage of all plant and animal life now in California is not native to the region but was introduced by Europeans and Americans?

- a. 25
- b. 33
- c. 50
- d. 90

Ans: d

9. Why did California Indians not develop maize agriculture?

- a. They did not have the necessary knowledge to plant corn.
- b. Most of them had access to a variety of food sources and there was no need to develop agriculture.

- c. They traded for corn, beans and squash with tribes further south.
- d. They relied heavily on the cultivation of indigenous plants and thus did not need to grow corn.

Ans: b

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10. The duties of tribal religious leaders, or shamans, included

- a. supervision of ceremonial life.
- b. preservation of the tribe's medicinal knowledge .
- c. communication with the natural world.
- d. all of the above.

Ans: d

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11. The narcotic potion made from jimson weed (also known as datura) used in the coming-of-age ceremony is

- a. berdache.
- b. toloache.
- c. rancheria.
- d. temescal.

Ans: b

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12 . A sweathouse is also known as a

- a. berdache.
- b. peon.

c. rancheria.

d. temescal.

Ans: d

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13. The word referring to people of a "third sex," believed to have spiritual powers, is

a. berdache.

b. toloache.

c. peon.

d. temescal.

Ans: a

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14. Which Indian group originally inhabited the Los Angeles region?

a. Chumash

b. Tongva

c. Coast Miwok

d. Costanoan

Ans: b

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15. Which of the following social and religious beliefs is *not* among the differences between Spanish and Indian societies?

a. California Indians accepted homosexuality, whereas Spaniards did not.

b. Premarital sex was usually accepted by California Indians, whereas Spaniards held it to be against their religion.

- c. Many California Indians believed it was necessary to cremate the dead, but Spaniards opposed this practice.
- d. California Indians generally did not commit themselves to a single partner, whereas Spaniards did.

Ans: d

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16. Singing and chanting were an essential element in Indian

- a. marriage ceremonies.
- b. initiation rites.
- c. leisure time activities.
- d. all of the above.

Ans: d

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17. Tribes that traced descent through the male lineage are called

- a. patrilocal.
- b. matrilineal.
- c. patrilineal.
- d. patricidal.

Ans: c

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18. Which two California native groups lived in societies that were both patrilineal and divided into social classes?

- a. Shastans and Miwoks
- b. Miwoks and Yokuts

- c. Costanoans and Yokuts
- d. Chumash and Tongvas

Ans: d

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19. The Chumash of Central California are best known for their

- a. expertise in woodworking and basketry.
- b. warlike relationship with neighboring tribes.
- c. mining of cinnabar used to make colorful paints.
- d. veneration of grizzlies.

Ans: a

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20. Chumash villages

- a. were permanent.
- b. consisted of well-constructed homes built of poles and interwoven grass.
- c. included various 'public' buildings like storehouses and ceremonial buildings.
- d. are represented in all of the above statements.

Ans: a

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21. Which California Indians made boats from wood planks, allowing them to travel miles out on the ocean?

- a. Miwoks
- b. Costanoans
- c. Chumash

- d. Shastans

Ans: c

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22. Among the six tribes described in Chapter 1, which seems to have been most engaged in warfare with its neighbors?

- a. Chumash
- b. Tongvas
- c. Costanoans
- d. Miwoks

Ans: c

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23. Which of the following animals appears in many of the California Indian tribal storytelling traditions?

- a. Grizzly bear
- b. Coyote
- c. Dog
- d. Horse

Ans: b

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24. Tule reeds were used by peoples living along the marshes and streams of central California as

- a. material for baskets.
- b. construction material.
- c. food.

d. all of the above.

Ans: d

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25. The theories of nineteenth century positivist scholars like Lewis Henry Morgan postulated that

- a. all Indians were "childlike," "indolent," and dominated by "brutal appetites."
- b. all human societies went through stages of "savagery," "barbarism," and "civilization." "Civilization" implied farming and certain types of technology and skills which California Indians lacked.
- c. California Indians were "diggers," meaning they lacked knowledge of farming and technology.
- d. California Indians were capable only of performing manual labor for more advanced peoples, such as Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans.

Ans: b

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Essay questions

1. One of the features of California is its diversity, leading some to say that there are "many Californias." What are some of the important contrasts in California's climate, geophysical features, and plant and animal life?
2. California Indians consisted of diverse groups, yet they also shared certain common characteristics. Discuss some of the important similarities and differences among indigenous societies. Remember to specify the groups and regions about which you are writing.
3. Rich traditions of spirituality, ritual, and song were common to most California Indian groups. How were concerns and values surrounding food and sustenance, sickness and health, and social relations reflected in these practices?

4. Describe women's status and economic and social roles within the diverse but largely patriarchal social systems of California Indians. Focus your discussion on responses to the following two questions: How did women wield power? How did sexual relations support peaceful relations among diverse Indian groups?

5. Contrary to stereotypical notions about early Native Americans, California Indians evolved political and social structures that recognized competition and gambling and supported a class hierarchy or caste system. What values and characteristics among the six groups discussed in Chapter 1 set them apart from one another? In general, who was rewarded with the most privileged positions in Indian society?