

BEGINNINGS TO 1620***The First People in America***

Read the passage. Then choose the best answer for each item.

Some people think that human life began in Africa. About 25,000 to 35,000 years ago, early people moved. Some left Africa. Some came all the way to Siberia. This is in Asia.

At that time, it was the Ice Age. Most of the Earth was covered with huge sheets of ice. This meant that much of the water was trapped in glaciers on the land. Less water flowed into the seas. Land that had been under the water could be seen. One piece of land was Beringia. This was a narrow land bridge. It joined Siberia with Alaska. People and animals were able to cross the land bridge. They found themselves in North America.

These people were the first Americans. They were alone on a vast, cold land. It was a very hard life. They had to find new things to eat. They gathered plants. They also hunted animals and fished. They had to make new tools. They used tools for digging and hunting.

Thousands of years later, it got warmer. The ice melted. Beringia flooded. The land bridge was gone. It was covered with water. It became the Bering Strait. But, by then, lots of people had come to North America.



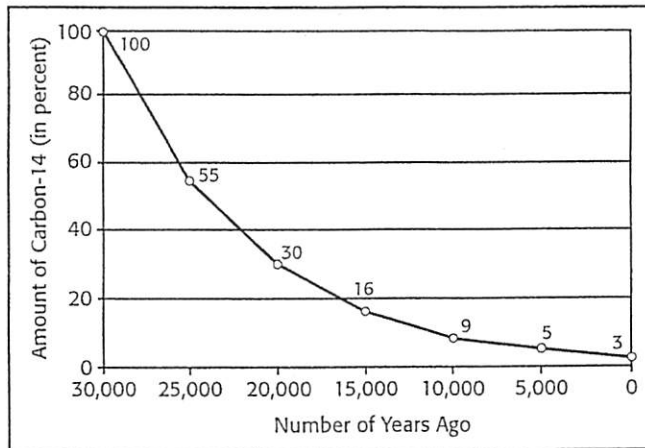
Tip: Read the passage carefully. Then read each question and all the answer choices. Think about the passage. Also think about what you already know about the first people in America. Use the passage and what you know to help you choose the best answer for each question.

- 1 How long ago did people move to Siberia?
 - A 5,000–10,000 years
 - B 10,000–15,000 years
 - C 20,000–25,000 years
 - D 25,000–35,000 years
- 2 What separates Siberia and Alaska today?
 - A North America
 - B Africa
 - C Bering Strait
 - D China
- 3 Why could Beringia be seen at the end of the Ice Age?
 - A People built the bridge so they could walk to North America.
 - B Water was trapped in glaciers so it did not flow into the sea.
 - C The people and animals that walked across the land made a trail.
 - D The oceans flooded and moved dirt from Alaska to Siberia.
- 4 What did the first Americans find in North America?
 - A many different cultures
 - B a warm and rainy climate
 - C new plants and animals
 - D people who were farmers

BEGINNINGS TO 1620**Graph: Radio Carbon Dating**

Scientists use carbon-14 to tell the age of the remains of something, such as teeth, bones, and seeds. The graph shows how the amount of carbon-14 changes over time.

Use the graph to answer the questions.

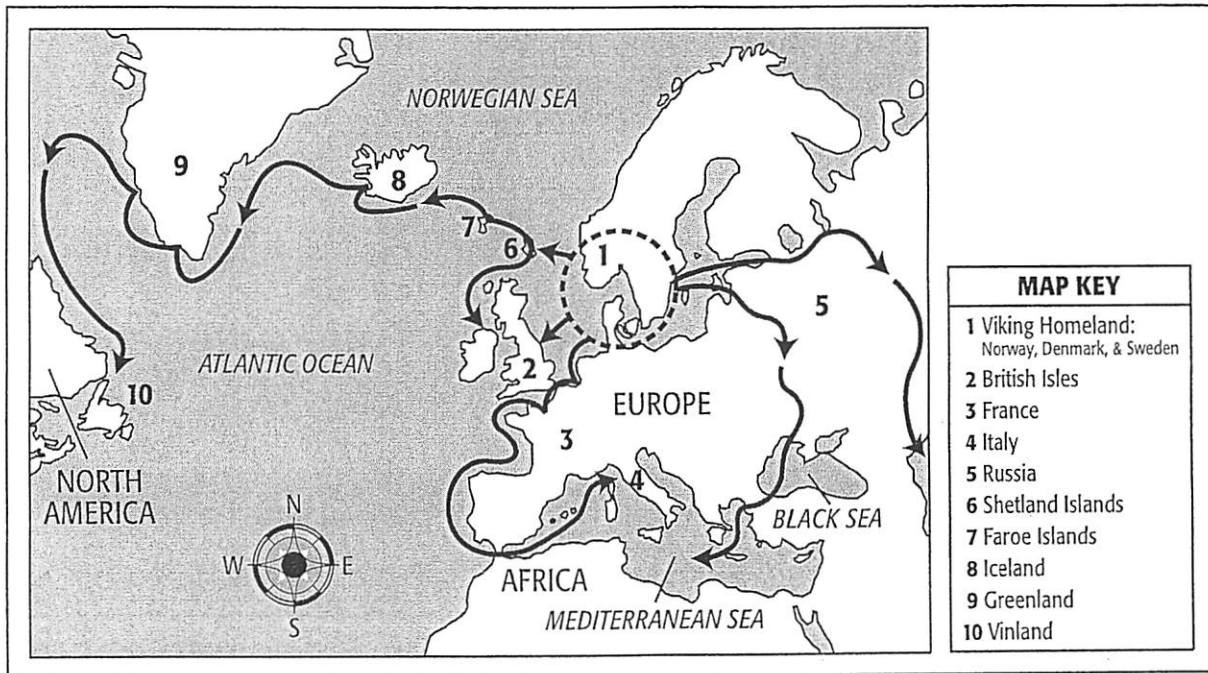


Tip: Read the graph carefully. Remember that a line graph shows how something changes over a period of time. Refer to the graph after you read each question. Be sure you read all the answer choices before you choose an answer.

- How many years ago would a bone have 100% of its carbon-14?
 - 30,000
 - 20,000
 - 10,000
 - 5,000
- How many years have passed when the amount of carbon-14 in a set of teeth is 30%?
 - 5,000
 - 10,000
 - 20,000
 - 25,000
- If one of today's archaeologists found some seeds that were 30,000 years old, how much carbon-14 would still be in the seeds?
 - 30%
 - 16%
 - 9%
 - 3%
- After 15,000 years, how much carbon-14 would be left in a bone?
 - 3%
 - 9%
 - 16%
 - 30%
- What conclusion can you draw from the graph?
 - The amount of carbon-14 stays the same in the remains, regardless of the amount of time that passes.
 - The more time that passes, the more carbon-14 is found in the remains.
 - The more time that passes, the less carbon-14 is found in the remains.
 - The amount of carbon-14 increases in the remains for the first 10,000 years, and then it decreases over the next 20,000 years.

BEGINNINGS TO 1620**Map: The Routes of Viking Voyages**

Use the map to answer the questions.



Tip: Look carefully at the map. Think about what it shows. Refer to the map after you read each question. Be sure you read all the answer choices before you choose an answer.

- Where was the Viking homeland?
 - Norway, Denmark, Sweden
 - Italy, France, Russia
 - Iceland, Greenland, Vinland
 - British Isles, Shetland Islands, Faroe Islands
- On which body of water did the Vikings have to travel to get to North America?
 - Black Sea
 - Mediterranean Sea
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Pacific Ocean
- Which of these is a place that the Vikings did NOT travel to?
 - France
 - Germany
 - Italy
 - Russia
- Where did the Vikings end up when they traveled around Europe and into the Mediterranean Sea?
 - Greenland
 - Norway
 - France
 - Italy
- What is the farthest east location that the Vikings traveled to?
 - Greenland
 - Sweden
 - Russia
 - Italy

BEGINNINGS TO 1620***Christopher Columbus***

Read the passage. Then choose the best answer for each item.

Christopher Columbus was from Italy. He was a sailor. The king and queen of Spain sent him on a trip. They sent him to find a short route to Asia. Spain wanted him to find gold. He would also look for spices. Spices make foods taste better. Columbus would bring these things back to Spain. He would make Spain rich.

Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. He took three small ships. They were the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. The Santa Maria was the biggest ship. Columbus was its captain. The ships left Spain on August 3, 1492. He took 90 men with him. They reached some land on October 11.

Columbus thought they were in Asia. He called it the Indies. He found people there. He called them Indians. He had found the Americas. This was the New World.

On December 5, Columbus found more land. He named it Hispaniola. He went back to Spain on March 15, 1493. He was a hero!

Columbus made three more trips. He went to Mexico. This is in Central America. He also went to Venezuela. It is in South America. He never came to the United States.



Tip: Read the passage carefully. Then read each question and all the answer choices. Think about the passage. Also think about what you already know about Christopher Columbus and his voyages to the New World. Use the passage and what you know to help you choose the best answer for each question.

- 1 Where was Christopher Columbus born?
 - A Hispaniola
 - B Spain
 - C Italy
 - D Asia
- 2 When did Columbus find the Americas?
 - A August 3, 1492
 - B March 15, 1493
 - C October 11, 1492
 - D December 5, 1492
- 3 What is the main reason the king and queen of Spain paid for Columbus's trips?
 - A They wanted to show that Spain was a powerful nation.
 - B They wanted maps to be more accurate.
 - C They wanted to name a new land after themselves.
 - D They wanted Spain to become rich.
- 4 How many trips did Columbus make to the Americas?

A 1	B 2
C 3	D 4

BEGINNINGS TO 1620**Primary Source: A Letter from Christopher Columbus**

Read the quotation. Then choose the best answer for each item.

In obedience to your Highnesses' commands, and with submission to superior judgment, I will say whatever occurs to me in reference to the colonization and commerce of the Island of Espanola, and of the other islands, both those already discovered and those that may be discovered hereafter.

In the first place, as regards the Island of Espanola [Hispaniola]: Inasmuch as the number of colonists who desire to go thither amounts to two thousand, owing to the land being safer and better for farming and trading, and because it will serve as a place to which they can return and from which they can carry on trade with the neighboring islands . . .

That for the better and more speedy colonization of the said island, no one shall have liberty to collect gold in it except those who have taken out colonists' papers, and have built houses for their abode, in the town in which they are, that they may live united and in greater safety. . .

That none of the colonists shall go to seek gold without a license from the governor . . . that he must first take oath to return . . . for the purpose of registering faithfully all the gold he may have found, and . . . to render account and show the quantity of said gold . . .

— Christopher Columbus (undated, probably 1494)



Tip: Read part of Christopher Columbus's letter to the rulers of Spain. Think about what Columbus says. Then think about what you already know about Columbus. Then read the questions. Use the passage and what you know to help you choose the best answer for each question.

- 1 Why did colonists want to go to Espanola?
 - A to discover new lands
 - B to meet new people
 - C to farm and trade
 - D to find gold
- 2 What is Columbus's biggest concern about the colonists?
 - A that they are farmers
 - B that they build houses
 - C that they treat the native people fairly
 - D that they follow rules about finding gold
- 3 What does Columbus think the colonists must do before they look for gold?
 - A register the gold
 - B show the gold
 - C find new land
 - D get a license
- 4 To what lands did Columbus want these rules to apply?
 - A the country of Spain
 - B the island of Espanola only
 - C only towns where colonists settled
 - D islands both discovered and to be discovered