

### **Please Note**

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THE RESPONSES IN THIS ANSWER KEY CONSIST OF MORE INFORMATION THAN IS REQUIRED OF THE STUDENT TO PROVIDE. THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE USED AS A GUIDE TO GRADING:

# GRADE GRADING CRITERIA

## HISTORY: CHRIST AND THE AMERICAS

- 89 - 100 The student's **response contains the vast majority of the information presented in this answer key**, with the most substantial points and ideas amply covered, and with full rationale and/or amplification of the events provided. Response has descriptive and expressive vocabulary, using proper grammar and spelling.
- 77 - 88 The student's **response contains much of the information presented in this answer key**, with some of the most substantial points and ideas covered, and with some rationale and/or amplification of the events. Response reads well, but perhaps lacks the vivid word choice or attention to detail of superlative work. Some grammatical and spelling errors may be present.
- 66 - 76 The student's **response answers the basic question posed** in the Review Questions section of the chapter, but does not give any rationale or amplifying information. There are some significant errors in overall paragraph and/or sentence structure. There are some glaring mistakes in grammar and spelling.
- 0 - 65 The student's **response does not answer the question posed** in the Review Questions section. There may be some confusion evident, or there may be completely inaccurate ideas and concepts portrayed in the student's response. There may or may not be grammatical or spelling mistakes present; but there is a clear lack of understanding of the main point or idea of the events.

## ANSWER KEY

### Chapter 1 Review Questions, pp. 18 - 19

#### **1 How did men first come to the Western Hemisphere? When did the Neolithic Revolution take place there?**

When human beings first arrived in the New World, the Western Hemisphere, they probably came from Asia, crossing from Siberia to Alaska over what may have been then a land bridge across the Bering Sea. (Not stated in the textbook is the fact that the ancestors of our present-day Indians came from the steppes of Central Asia, and are therefore closely related to Mongolian and Turkic peoples of Asia. It is just as likely that these people came across the Bering Strait when it was frozen.) The textbook states that the Neolithic Revolution in the New World occurred around 2500 B.C.; however, the Church has generally taught, based on Holy Scripture, that man was created sometime around 4000 B.C. Therefore, any date postulated by anthropologists which places man on the earth before 4000 B.C. must not be accepted uncritically. The textbook's statement that the Neolithic or Agricultural Revolution occurred in the Old World around 9000 B.C. is a guess on the part of anthropologists, and has no basis in Scripture.

#### **2. Who were the Olmecs? What did they bring to American culture?**

The Olmecs were a warlike people from the eastern coastal jungle plain of what is now Mexico, who are believed to have lived around 1000 B.C. Their desire for power led the Olmecs to introduce human sacrifice to their false gods, a practice which became so ingrained in the culture of what would one day be Central America, that, except for a respite under Quetzalcoatl, it was still being practiced when the Spanish arrived two and one-half millennia later.

#### **3. What was the first civilization in the New World? What was its form of writing? What were some of its accomplishments?**

The first civilization which appeared in the New World -- sometime after 650 B.C. -- was that of the Mayas of what

would one day be Central America. Mayan writing is composed of weird pictures called Maya glyphs, and has not been fully deciphered to this day. The Mayans were mathematically advanced; they developed an 18-month calendar, which in many ways, is more accurate than ours; and they were excellent astronomers.

#### **4. What was the significance of Quetzalcoatl?**

In the mid-900s A.D., Quetzalcoatl became a great leader of the Totec people, who became dominant in the region of the Western Hemisphere that would become known as Central America. He hated human sacrifice, and did everything he could to stop this bloody practice. For a time, his civilization flourished, having been freed from the brutality of human sacrifice.

#### **5. How did human sacrifice come to be vastly increased? What was the significance of Tlacaellé?**

When the war-like and bloodthirsty Aztecs gained power in what is now Central America, they greatly increased the number of human sacrifices. This was a result of the law of Tlacaellé, which required a thousand sacrifices annually from each town with a temple, offered to the "Hummingbird Wizard," the false god Huitzilopochtli. Tlacaellé was the most powerful man in the Aztec Empire, a warrior who dominated Montezuma I and also picked the next three emperors. He was the *de facto* (actual) ruler of the Aztecs for an extraordinarily long time, and the one dominant policy of his rule was human sacrifice.

#### **6. Describe Aztec society.**

In the Aztec society, wealth consisted of land and the men to work it, because there was no money. The emperor and his court collected a share of all the crops harvested, the pagan priests another share. Almost no one owned property of his own. The common people lived in tightly organized communities. Every man-child was dedicated to the war god at his birth and trained in the art of war from childhood. Discipline was harsh; any boy who failed to become a

warrior was put to death or enslaved. The individual was taught that he stood for nothing; the nation was all. The people, living in fear and slavery, without hope or joy, supported the aristocracy and pagan priesthood with tribute.

**7. What were the characteristics of Incan culture?**

Incan culture was higher than that of the primitive savages of what would become North America, but lower than that of the civilized (we use the term loosely) peoples of what would be Central America. The Incas built cities, had a highly developed governmental system, and produced amazing architecture, though they never learned to write, relying solely on oral communication. The Incan society was organized in a pyramidal structure, and closely controlled. All land, llama herds, and mines were owned by the government and worked by peasants. The wealthy noblemen and the pagan priests lived in luxury, supported by the labors of the peasants. The Incas, too, had human sacrifice, though on a smaller scale than the Aztecs.

**8. Why did Columbus want to find a new route to the Indies? What was his plan? Why was it rejected by most? Why did Isabel accept it?**

The route to the Indies was long and difficult, involving both a sea voyage and an overland journey, along which local rulers exacted heavy taxes for the privilege of crossing their land. The Portuguese were venturing around Africa to avoid these difficulties, but Christopher Columbus reasoned that, since the world was spherical, if he sailed west, he would come to the Spice Islands, India, and China from the opposite direction. He was sure that it would be an easier, faster route, though he did not know that his calculations were off considerably. Advisors to both the King of Portugal and the Queen of Spain told Columbus that his computations were in error. Queen Isabel was a great Catholic monarch, and after driving the last Moors from Spain in early 1492, agreed to his plan, out of religious zeal and a desire to bring greater glory to God.

**9. When did Columbus sight land? Where did he land?**

After making the voyage across the Atlantic, Columbus' lookouts sighted land on October 12th. He probably landed on one of the Bahaman Islands, although it is uncertain exactly where he made this first landfall in what he thought was the Indies.

**10. What happened to the *Santa Maria*? What were the conditions on the return voyage?**

The crew was celebrating on Christmas Eve, when an officer derelict in his duty turned over the tiller of the *Santa Maria* to an inexperienced young boy. The ship ran aground on a coral reef, and it had to be abandoned. The return trip to Spain was rough, with terrible storms causing the *Niña* and the *Pinta* to become separated. The *Niña* arrived safely in the Azores after surviving a terrible storm just west of there, only to run into more gales as they approached Portugal. The *Niña* limped back to Spain with only one of her sails intact.

**11. What happened on Columbus' second voyage? How did his third voyage end?**

On Columbus' second voyage to what he still thought was the

Indies, he made new discoveries in the Caribbean visiting the Lesser Antilles, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Jamaica. His first colony which he had left behind had been wiped out by Indians, but he established a new colony on Hispaniola Island. On his third voyage, he made landfall on the continental mainland at what is now Venezuela. His administration of the colonies was unwise, however, and he was investigated by a royal commissioner. He was sent back to Spain in chains.

**12. What was the main significance of Columbus?**

Although it took a while for Columbus to realize that he had not found an alternate route to the Indies, he was nevertheless the man responsible for opening up the New World. Before Christopher Columbus, men rarely sailed out of sight of land, hugging the shore, scarcely daring to sail down unfamiliar coastlines. Everyone looked east, but Columbus looked west. He dared to leave the familiar and risk all in his attempts to prove his theories correct, and in his desires to bring greater glory to God.

**13. Describe Spain at the time of the explorations.**

Spain, at the time of the great explorations, had just been unified under Ferdinand and Isabel, who succeeded in defeating and expelling the last of the Moors, who had dominated the Iberian peninsula for about eight hundred years. They, and their immediate successors, built a Catholic society which was a bastion against the Protestants and Mohameddians alike. The discoveries of Columbus enkindled the religious zeal of the Spaniards, who were filled with enthusiasm, courage, and a faith in God which helped them to brave any risk. They were optimistic and courageous, and felt there was nothing they could not do. The effects of that strongly Catholic Spanish civilization, and her great men, can still be seen to this day in most of south and Central America -- a civilization which has even left lasting marks on the United States.

**14. What were the achievements of Portugal during the Age of Explorations?**

During the Age of Explorations, Portuguese sea-farers attached to the school of Prince Henry the Navigator explored along the western coastline of Africa, until Vasco da Gama made his way around the Cape of Good Hope, arriving in India in 1498. This eventually opened up the sea route to the Indies, which was used to transport missionaries and soldiers to India, and spices back to Portugal from there. Meanwhile, Pedro Cabral followed Da Gama's advice, attempting to duplicate the latter's voyage, but was blown off course to what is now Brazil. As a result, the Portuguese brought the Catholic Faith to what would be South America.

**15. Give the significance of Vespucci, Balboa, and Ponce de Leon.**

Amerigo Vespucci was a sea-farer who wrote accounts of voyages to, and discoveries in, the New World. These accounts contained beautiful and detailed descriptions of not just real voyages, but imagined ones, as well. One fictional account of a trip to the New World in 1497 caused many to believe that Amerigo Vespucci was actually the first European to land on the mainland of the New World. In fact, it was a hoax, but Vespucci was given the honor by a

cartographer-friend of his, by having his family name immortalized as the name of the Western Hemisphere continents. Balboa went on a voyage to the New World, settling on the island of Hispaniola as a planter. After financial problems, he found himself in 1513 leading an expedition across the Isthmus of Panama. Balboa and his men hacked their way across the isthmus, and Balboa claimed the “Southern Sea” for Spain. Ponce de Leon, who had voluntarily accompanied Columbus as a teen-aged boy, made several voyages to the New World, and set out to find the fabled “Fountain of Youth.” He never found the fountain, but he found Florida, and he became the first European to explore the continental United States. He discovered the Gulf Stream, as well.

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**Chapter 2 Review Questions, p. 33**

**1. What was the main goal of Cortes? Contrast Cortez and Montezuma.**

Hernán Cortés departed for Mexico from Cuba, intending to conquer an empire of millions, motivated by his deep religious faith to bring Christianity to the inhabitants of the New World. In fact, the text specifically states that Cortés’ primary purpose for his expedition was the destruction of the devil gods and the winning of Mexico for the reign of Christ the King. Cortés was a bold and courageous leader; he was ever optimistic and confident in all his undertakings. He made decisions and stuck by them, never wavering or doubting. Montezuma was gloomy and depressed, and fearful of the Spaniards. He was an indecisive leader, frequently in doubt as to what course of action to take in any number of issues. He was superstitious, which accounted for his insistence in large numbers of humans sacrificed to his devil gods.

**2. Describe what happened in each of the stops on the way to Tenochtitlán.**

When Cortés and his men marched toward Tenochtitlán, they entered the territory of Tlaxcala, who mistrusted the Spaniards. After the Spaniards tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a treaty with them, the Tlaxcalans attacked, with Cortés and his men facing incredible odds. Although the Spaniards defeated the Tlaxcalans, nearly every man in the Spanish army was wounded. The Tlaxcalans asked the Spaniards for a treaty of alliance, which was quite helpful for Cortés’ expedition. One of the Tlaxcalan temples was converted into a Church. The next stop on the way to Tenochtitlán was Cholula. The Cholulans did not believe that Cortés was the reincarnation of Quetzalcoatl, as many in Mexico did, and planned to ambush him. But Cortés was warned, and the Spanish again prevailed. In the course of the battle, the idol in the temple was thrown down, and a stone cross was ultimately erected in its place.

**3. What did Cortes first try to do with Montezuma? How did he make Montezuma his prisoner?**

Cortés first tried to teach Montezuma about the Christian religion, urging him to worship the one true God, but Montezuma told the *conquistador* not to speak of such things. After initially being treated graciously and given

leave to travel about at will in the city, Cortés knew that he and his men were in a precarious position. Soon, whatever remaining illusions Montezuma had about Cortés would disappear, and he would order an attack on the Spaniards. Cortés’ only hope was to control Montezuma himself and rule the city through him, so he marched into Montezuma’s palace and took the emperor prisoner.

**4. Give evidence from this chapter and Chapter One that the Aztecs were engaged in devil worship.**

The two chief gods to whom the sacrifices were offered by the Aztecs were Huitzilopochtli, the Hummingbird Wizard, also known as the Lover of Hearts and Drinker of Blood, and Tezcatlipoca, the Smoking Mirror and Lord of the Dark. These names alone speak for themselves about who it was that the Aztecs actually worshipped. Additionally, the religious symbol of the Aztec religion was the serpent, a form previously taken by Satan in the Garden of Eden and used as a symbol of Satan in nearly all Christian art and literature. The worship of these devil gods involved human sacrifice on a massive scale, which would never have been required by the one, true God of any people who worship Him. When Cortés and his men were shown the temple upon arrival at Tenochtitlán, they saw the images of the two main devil gods, and noted that they were decorated with the hearts of sacrificial victims. Moreover, near the idols were some figures like small devils, with tails like serpents. Later, after Cortés and his men fought their way into the temple, they battled to the chapel only to find the image of Our Lady replaced by a hideous statue of Huitzilopochtlim, surrounded by the hearts of more sacrificial victims. It can therefore be said without doubt that the Aztecs were certainly engaged in devil worship.

**5. What caused an end to friendly relations between the Mexicans and the Spaniards? Describe the *Noche Triste*.**

While Cortés was absent from Tenochtitlán, fighting and defeating Panfilo Narvaez, he had left Alvarado in command. Upon his return to the capital city, Cortés discovered that Alvarado had started trouble by ordering a massacre of a number of Aztecs at a festival for the rain gods. Alvarado had feared that the festival would be the occasion for an attack on his men, but he had acted without solid evidence, endangering the entire Spanish force. Cortés decided that his only hope for saving his men was to escape at night, and set the night of June 30 - July 1 as the date for the retreat. After Mass, the Spaniards set out, carrying a portable bridge for crossing the canals. They crossed the first part of the way safely, but the Mexican warriors attacked, wrecked the portable bridge, killing most of the horses and half the army. Nearly every man was wounded. But Cortés kept them moving until they finally crossed the water and were outside the city.

**6. Why was Cortez finally able to defeat the Aztecs? What was the most important result of his victory?**

After resting for many months in Tlaxcala, the men recovered from their wounds and Cortés received reinforcements from Spain. In April of 1521, nine months after the *Noche Triste*, the *conquistadores* marched on Tenochtitlán. With the help of God as a result of much sacrifice and prayer, and with some assistance from some Indian allies, the Spaniards entered the temple and dethroned the devil gods after a siege