



AMERICAN HISTORY



THE CRITICAL PERIOD

Name: _____

Date: _____

Multiple Choice

- The Treaty of Paris primarily accomplished which of the following for America?
 - Established a national constitution
 - Secured independence from Great Britain
 - Granted voting rights to all citizens
 - Abolished slavery
- What is the term used to describe the period immediately following the American Revolution?
 - Reconstruction Era
 - Revolutionary Era
 - Critical Period
 - Confederation Period
- One significant opportunity during the Critical Period was:
 - Abolition of all taxes
 - Expansion into western territories
 - Centralization of government power
 - Immediate creation of a federal constitution
- Which of the following is NOT a change in voting rights during the Critical Period?
 - Lowering property ownership requirements
 - Eliminating religious restrictions
 - Allowing women to vote without property ownership
 - Expanding local control and participation
- The Articles of Confederation:
 - Created a strong central government
 - Gave each state one vote regardless of size
 - Established an executive branch
 - Required only a simple majority to pass measures



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6. What was a major weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
 - A. It prohibited state governments from collecting taxes.
 - B. It lacked an executive and judicial branch.
 - C. It restricted states from forming their own governments.
 - D. It banned foreign trade entirely.

7. Shays' Rebellion highlighted which issue under the Articles of Confederation?
 - A. Lack of federal military power
 - B. Disputes over slavery
 - C. Conflict between northern and southern states
 - D. Imbalance in representation

8. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 guaranteed all of the following EXCEPT:
 - A. Freedom of religion
 - B. Trial by jury
 - C. Prohibition of slavery in the Northwest Territory
 - D. Universal suffrage for all citizens

9. Which state granted voting rights to "all inhabitants" in its 1776 constitution, allowing some women to vote?
 - A. Massachusetts
 - B. New Jersey
 - C. Pennsylvania
 - D. Vermont

10. Which of the following is true about black men voting in early America?
 - A. Black men were universally barred from voting.
 - B. Voting rights for black men were tied to property ownership.
 - C. Black men could vote only in New England states.
 - D. Voting rights for black men were unrestricted until the Civil War.



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Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the opportunities and challenges faced by the United States during the Critical Period? How did these shape the development of the new nation?
2. Why do you think property ownership was such an important factor in voting rights during this time? Do you think it was fair? Why or why not?
3. The Articles of Confederation created a weak central government. Why do you think the states wanted it that way? What problems did this cause?
4. How did the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 contribute to the growth of the United States? Why was its prohibition of slavery significant?
5. Do you think the changes in voting rights after the Revolution made America more democratic? Why or why not? What lessons can we learn from these changes?





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Answer Key

- 1.B – Secured independence from Great Britain
- 2.C – Critical Period
- 3.B – Expansion into western territories
- 4.C – Allowing women to vote without property ownership
- 5.B – Gave each state one vote regardless of size
- 6.B – It lacked an executive and judicial branch
- 7.A – Lack of federal military power
- 8.D – Universal suffrage for all citizens
- 9.B – New Jersey
- 10.B – Voting rights for black men were tied to property ownership

