

Middle America Quiz

Name: _____

Circle the correct answer

- 1) Of all oil imports to the United States, about 9% comes from this country:
 - a) Mexico
 - b) Honduras
 - c) Brazil
 - d) Dominican Republic
 - e) Costa Rica

- 2) Which of the following countries in Middle America is largest in area?
 - a) El Salvador
 - b) Costa Rica
 - c) Guatemala
 - d) Belize
 - e) Brazil

- 3) Which of the following countries has the highest percentage of European-derived settlers, the highest GDP per capita and the highest life expectancy:
 - A. Guatemala;
 - B. Nicaragua;
 - C. Mexico;
 - D. Costa Rica;
 - E. Panama.

- 4) Which of the following is false about the Dominican Republic:
 - a) The Dominican Republic has the larger share of the island of Hispaniola than Haiti in terms of both territory and population;
 - b) The border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti depicts a stark contrast – Haiti’s hills and plains are tree covered while those of the Dominican Republic are treeless and gulleied;
 - c) Spanish colonists made this a prosperous colony, but then Mexico and Peru diverted Spanish attention from Hispaniola and the territory was ceded to France;
 - d) After the revolution in Haiti, the French gave eastern Hispaniola back to Spain;
 - e) The mountainous Dominican Republic has a wide range of natural environments and a far stronger resource base than Haiti;

- 5) The core area of the Aztec state was located in:
 - A. the lowlands of Guatemala;
 - B. the same place as the core area of the earlier Mayan state;
 - C. the valley of central Mexico;
 - D. the interior of the Yucatan Peninsula;
 - E. the southern state of Mexico called Chiapas.

- 6) Mestizo refers to:
 - A. a mix of European and Indian population;
 - B. a mix of African and European population;
 - C. a mix of Indian and African population;
 - D. an Indian population;
 - E. European population.

7) Ejidos are:

- a) a culture group living in the Central American highlands;
- b) a system of land management;
- c) a name given to the landless people of Central America;
- d) a serious problem for Mexico because of the dominance of Amerindians;
- e) a dividing line between the more Hispanic-mestizo north and the more Amerindian-infused mestizo south.

8) Which of the following is false about Mexico:

- a) NAFTA has enriched Mexico in general and northern Mexico in particular;
- b) Almost all of the northern states of Mexico bordering the United States have per capita incomes above the Mexican national average;
- c) Mexico has done much since the mid-1990s – it has strengthened its democratic institutions, absorbed the impacts of NAFTA, and improved its relations with the Amerindian minorities;
- d) Mexico's rate of population growth has continued to increase while millions have migrated to the US;
- e) Mexican workers in the US send between \$25 to \$30 billion back to Mexico, an amount greater than the entire US foreign aid budget to all countries of the world.

9) Which of the following is false about Central America:

- a) Unlike Mexico, Central America's population growth is slowing for a variety of reasons;
- b) Central America actually begins within Mexico, in Chiapas and in Yucatan, that face many of the same problems as the Central American countries to the south;
- c) Devastating inequalities, repressive governments, external interference, and the frequent unleashing of armed forces have destabilized Central America for much of its modern history;
- d) Conflicts between Amerindian population clusters and mestizo groups are endemic to the region, and contrasts between the privileged and poor are especially harsh;
- e) Dictatorial rule by local elites followed authoritarian rule by Spanish colonizers;

10) Which of the following is false about Honduras:

- a) Honduras is a country still on hold as it struggles to rebuild its battered infrastructure and economy;
- b) The consequences of the 1998 tropical cyclone Mitch were catastrophic;
- c) The agricultural sector that employs only 1/3 of Honduras's labor force was largely untouched;
- d) With 7.6 million inhabitants, about 90 percent mestizo, bedeviled Honduras still has years to go even to restore what was already the third-poorest economy in the Americas;
- e) The road back to economic viability is an arduous one, but once traversed will still leave 80% of Hondurans deeply mired in poverty and the country with little overall improvement in its development prospects.