

6.34 Finding Connections Between Historical Events

Instructions: Frequently students learn historical events in isolation from each other or from only one perspective. The following questions are intended to encourage people to draw connections between peoples and events.

1. The Jewish holiday of Hanukah is the celebration of ancient Hebrew resistance to conquest and assimilation between 100 and 200 B.C. Who were they battling against?
2. In 732 A.D., the victory of an army headed by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours prevented the integration of medieval European societies into a vibrant international civilization that already extended from the Pyrenees to China. Which army was defeated in this battle?
3. In 1325, a voyager from the Mediterranean region began his travels across the Eastern Hemisphere, probably reaching India in 1333 and China in 1345. Later he visited western Africa. As a result of his journals, dictated upon his return home, the known world became much more integrated. Who was this voyager?
4. Study of the “Age of Exploration” usually starts around 1450, with Portuguese voyages along the west coast of Africa. However, a half century earlier, this empire sponsored a series of major voyages to expand trade and find a water route connecting the east and west. One trip involved over 300 ships and nearly 28,000 people. The voyages stopped in 1433, when the empire decided it had little to learn about or acquire from the rest of the world. Which empire sponsored these voyages?
5. What is the oldest permanently established community in what is now the continental United States?
6. In 1608 a separatist group of Calvinists left England to stay with co-religionists in the Netherlands. Unhappy over the assimilation of their children into Dutch society, the “Pilgrims” returned to England a year later. In 1620, they left England again, this time to settle in the new world. Later in the 17th century, some of their former Dutch hosts followed their example and went into exile in the wilderness to establish a religious community. Who were they and where did they go?
7. The American colonies and the United States were involved in the French and Indian War from 1754-1763 and the War of 1812 from 1812 to 1815. Both wars were actually the North American fronts of broader European conflicts. Which wars were they? Who were the primary European combatants?
8. In 1831, he led a slave rebellion that shook the entire slave system and directly led to emancipation in a number of new world territories. Who was he and where was the rebellion?
9. Where did Mohandas Gandhi begin his involvement in opposition to British colonialism?
10. In the early 20th century, this future world leader sought a position in the French bureaucracy so that he could help the French develop his homeland. He was refused. In 1919, he tried to represent his homeland at the peace conference at Versailles, but he was denied admission. As a revolutionary leader, he later helped his people defeat the Japanese, the French, and the United States. Who was he and what was his homeland?

1. The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah is the celebration of ancient Hebrew resistance to conquest and assimilation between 100 and 200 B.C. Who were they battling against? Between 334 B.C. and 326 B.C., the armies of Alexander the Great conquered Asia Minor and the lands between Egypt and India. The Hellenistic Age that followed was a period of cultural, social, and commercial integration in the Mediterranean world. The rebellion between 166 B.C. and 164 B.C. was in opposition to Greek administration and culture and its local Jewish supporters.
2. In 732 A.D., the victory of an army headed by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours prevented the integration of medieval European societies into a vibrant international civilization that already extended from the Pyrenees to China. Which army was defeated in this battle? Charles Martel (Charles the Hammer) defeated an Islamic army and halted the advance of Islamic culture and religion into Western Europe.
3. In 1325, a voyager from the Mediterranean region began his travels across the Eastern Hemisphere, probably reaching India in 1333 and China in 1345. Later he visited western Africa. As a result of his journals, dictated upon his return home, the known world became much more integrated. Who was this voyager? During his lifetime, Abu Abdallah Ibn Battuta of Tunisia traveled widely, serving as an emissary for a number of Islamic rulers. In 1356, the ruler of Morocco had a young scholar record Ibn Battuta's experiences and observations about the Islamic world.
4. Study of the "Age of Exploration" usually starts around 1450, with Portuguese voyages along the west coast of Africa. However, a half century earlier, this empire sponsored a series of major voyages to expand trade and find a water route connecting the east and west. One trip involved over 300 ships and nearly 28,000 people. The voyages stopped in 1433, when the empire decided it had little to learn about or acquire from the rest of the world. Which empire sponsored these voyages? In 1405, the Ming rulers of China sent Zheng He on the first of seven expeditions to India, Arabia, and the east coast of Africa.
5. What is the oldest permanently established community in what is now the continental United States? The Hopi village of Orabi in Arizona.
6. In 1608 a separatist group of Calvinists left England to stay with co-religionists in the Netherlands. Unhappy over the assimilation of their children into Dutch society, the "Pilgrims" returned to England a year later. In 1620, they left England again, this time to settle in the new world. Later in the 17th century, some of their former Dutch hosts followed their example and went into exile in the wilderness to establish a religious community. Who were they and where did they go? The Dutch establish a colony at the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa in 1652. The Boers or Afrikaners soon declare Africans the descendants of the biblical "Ham," justifying their enslavement and apartheid.
7. The American colonies and the United States were involved in the French and Indian War from 1754-1763 and the War of 1812 from 1812 to 1815. Both wars were actually the North American fronts of broader European conflicts. Which wars were they? Who were the primary European combatants? Both wars centered on Anglo-French competition for empire and efforts to build alliances. The French and Indian War was part of the Seven Year War in Europe. The War of 1812 was a battlefield in the Napoleonic Wars.
8. In 1831, he led a slave rebellion that shook the entire slave system and directly led to emancipation in a number of new world territories. Who was he and where was the rebellion? Sam Sharpe, a literate slave preacher, led an eight-day rebellion that spread across the entire island of Jamaica. He was captured and hanged; however, his rebellion led to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.
9. Where did Mohandas Gandhi begin his involvement in opposition to British colonialism? Mohandas Gandhi was a founding member of the African National Congress in South Africa in 1912.
10. In the early 20th century, this future world leader sought a position in the French bureaucracy so that he could help the French develop his homeland. He was refused. In 1919, he tried to represent his homeland at the peace conference at Versailles, but he was denied admission. As a revolutionary leader, he later helped his people defeat the Japanese, the French, and the United States. Who was he and what was his homeland? Nguyen That Thanh of Vietnam, who was later known as Ho Chi Minh.