Beringia

The Beringia land bridge was a land bridge roughly 1,000 miles north to south at its greatest extent, which joined present-day Alaska and eastern Siberia, Russia at various times during the Pleistocene ice ages. It was not glaciated because snowfall was extremely light due to the southwesterly winds from the Pacific Ocean having lost their moisture over the fully glaciated Alaska Range. The grassland steppe including the land bridge and stretching for several hundred miles either side of it has been called Beringia.

The Bering Strait, the Chukchi Sea to the north and the Bering Sea to the south, are all shallow seas surround Beringia. The rise and fall of global sea levels has exposed and submerged the land bridge in several periods of the Pleistocene.

It is believed that a small human population of at most a few thousands may have survived the last ice age in Beringia, isolated from its ancestor populations in Asia for at least 5,000 years; before expanding to populate the Americas.

The Beringia land bridge is significant for several reasons, not least because it is believed to have enabled human migration to the Americas from Asia about 25,000 years ago. Recent studies have indicated that of the people migrating across this land bridge during that time period, only 70 left their genetic print in modern descendants. Sea-going coastal settlers may also have crossed much earlier, but scientific opinion remains divided on this point, and the coastal sites that would offer further information now lie submerged in the water offshore. Land animals were able to migrate through Beringia as well, bringing mammals that came from Asia to North America which was important.

A new study published in 2007, which was led by University of Michigan and University College London researchers, seems to suggest that the Bering land bridge migration occurred during one specific time period which was 12,000 years ago, that every human who migrated across the land bridge all came from Eastern Siberia during that time period, and that every native American is directly descended from that same group of Eastern Siberian migrants.

1. _____ A land bridge is a   A. strait       B. isthmus

2. Siberia is located in what country? _______________

3. _____ The Beringia land bridge was important as a means of
   A. human migration
   B. animal migration
   C. both A & B

4. How many bodies of water surround Beringia? _____
   (paragraph 2)

5. _____ According to the map, what geographic feature was essential for migration to the Americas?
   A. Beringia land bridge   B. Pacific Ocean
   C. Glaciers              D. Mountains

6. _____ Which is TRUE based on the map?
   A. Migrants kept moving southward to warmer climates.
   B. Migrants crossed immense glaciers along their route.
   C. Migrants made it as far south as Mexico.
COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

The Columbian Exchange is one of the most important events in history. It was the exchange of goods and ideas from Europe, Africa, Asia (Old World) and the Americas (New World). It started in 1492, when Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas.

This exchange of plants and animals changed European, American, African, and Asian ways of life. Foods that had never been seen before by people became a major part of what they ate. For example, before 1492, no potatoes were grown outside of South America. By the 1840s, Ireland was so dependent on the potato that a diseased crop led to the devastating Irish Potato Famine. The first European import to the Americas, the horse, changed the lives of many Native American tribes on the Great Plains, letting them to change to a nomadic lifestyle based on hunting bison on horseback. Italy became famous for its tomato sauce, made from New World tomatoes, while coffee from Africa and sugarcane from Asia became the main crops of very large Latin American plantations. Also the chili and Paprika from South America was introduced in India by the Portuguese and is today an important part of Indian cuisine.

Before the Columbian Exchange, there were no oranges in Florida, no bananas in Ecuador, no zucchini in Italy, no pineapples in Hawaii, no cattle in Texas, no burros in Mexico, no chile peppers in Thailand and India, no cigarettes in France and no chocolate in Switzerland. Even the dandelion was brought to America by Europeans for use as an herb. Before there was regular communication between the two hemispheres, the different types of domesticated animals and diseases were much larger in the Old World than in the New. This partly led to the horrible effects of Old World diseases on Native American tribes. Smallpox probably caused in the highest death toll for Native Americans. Barely any civilization on earth stayed the same by this global ecological exchange.

7. The Columbian Exchange an important historical event because it was the ________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________

8. The Columbian Exchange began in what year? _________

9. The Irish Potato Famine occurred in what Country? __________________

10. What disease caused the highest death for Native Americans? _________________

11. Did chocolate originated from New World OR Old World? _____________________

12. Through the Colombian Exchange, food from the Americans improved European nutrition while ___.
    A. tobacco from Europe changed American farming
    B. horses from Europe changed Native American hunting
    C. lumber from Europe allowed Americans to build communities

   The Columbian Exchange and the Triangle Trade are closely related. Slaves, sugar, and manufactured goods were traded on both routes. The difference is, the Columbian Exchange route also contained cassava, tobacco, potatoes, horses, and diseases.

   Triangle Trade

13. What conclusions can be drawn from the chart?
    A. Most of the diseases found in the Old World started in the New World.
    B. The same types of disease existed in both the Old World and the New World.
    C. There were many more diseases brought from the Old World to the New World.
14. Financially, who MOST benefited from the Colombian Exchange? _____
   A. Americas  B. Africa  C. Europe

NAFTA

Implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) began on January 1, 1994. This agreement will remove most barriers to trade and investment among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Under the NAFTA, all non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico were eliminated. In addition, many tariffs or taxes were eliminated immediately, with others being phased out over periods of 5 to 15 years. This allowed for an orderly adjustment to free trade with Mexico, with full implementation beginning January 1, 2008. Many American companies have moved factories to Mexico.

The agricultural provisions of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, in effect since 1989, were incorporated into the NAFTA. Under these provisions, all tariffs affecting agricultural trade between the United States and Canada, with a few exceptions for items covered by tariff-rate quotas, were removed by January 1, 1998.

Mexico and Canada reached a separate bilateral NAFTA agreement on market access for agricultural products. The Mexican-Canadian agreement eliminated most tariffs either immediately or over 5, 10, or 15 years. Tariffs between the two countries affecting trade in dairy, poultry, eggs, and sugar are maintained.

15. What 3 countries are involved with NAFTA? _____________ , ____________ , __________

16. What does NAFTA stand for? __________________________________________________________

17. How has NAFTA affected business culture in the U. S.? ______
   A. Some American companies have moved factories to Mexico.
   B. There are increase taxes on American goods shipped to Mexico.
   C. Some American companies have limited export of goods to Canada.

18. The graph shows the states with the largest number of Hispanic people in their population. Based on the graph, the probable place of origin for the largest number of Hispanic people in US is __.

19. What is California & Texas near, that would create their larger Hispanic populations? _____________
20. According to the graphs, how has NAFTA directly affected trade?
   A. Trade has increased between Mexico, Canada, and the United States.
   B. Trade between Mexico and Canada has decreased.
   C. Trade has decreased between Cuba, Panama, and Honduras.

21. Using the chart, which country can you infer has the HIGHEST standard of living?
   A. Japan  B. Canada  C. United Kingdom  D. U. S.

22. Using the chart, which country can you infer has the LOWEST standard of living?
   A. Japan  B. Canada  C. United Kingdom  D. U. S.

23. The 4 countries in chart are considered __.
   A. Less Developed  B. More Developed