

THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Classroom: Grades 9-12

President as Visionary: "Others Ask Why Not?"

Activity - Try This Quiz

Using the Student Text of Lesson 2, choose the best answer to these questions.

1. Which of these statements is most true of Thomas Jefferson's interest in organizing a trip to explore the Louisiana Territory:

- a. He had no real interest in it until he heard that the French had taken control of the Louisiana Territory.
- b. He had himself taken part in a previous expedition as far as the Mississippi River, which spurred his desire to go farther.
- c. He had been interested in Louisiana since the Revolutionary War period, and especially after the findings of the American sea captain, Robert Gray.
- d. He became interested in Louisiana only after reading a book about finding a water route to the West, written by the Scotsman, Alexander Mackenzie.

2. When Thomas Jefferson got word that the French had regained control of the Louisiana Territory and that the Spanish had suspended the right of deposit at the port of New Orleans, he:

- a. put into motion plans to purchase the city of New Orleans from the French.
- b. acquired funds from Congress for an expansion of the army and the construction of a river fleet.
- c. considered establishing an alliance with Great Britain.
- d. Jefferson took all of these actions in response to the situation.

3. Which of these statements best describes Jefferson's view of the constitutionality of adding land to the national domain by a purchase treaty:

- a. He stuck firmly to his position that the president and the Senate could not authorize or ratify such a treaty without first adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- b. He thought it would be better to add an amendment authorizing the purchase but did not push it for fear that Napoleon would renege on his offer to sell Louisiana.
- c. From the beginning, he believed that the purchase could be easily justified by the power of the president and the Senate to propose and ratify treaties, whether they involved a purchase or not.
- d. Jefferson believed that because of the enormous opportunity that the purchase of Louisiana created for the United States, the transaction could take place by executive order without any infringement of constitutional guidelines.

4. When Jefferson sent a message to Congress requesting funding for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, he justified the constitutionality of the request by noting that:

- a. the principle object of the trip was to develop commerce, a purpose that was well within the powers of Congress to authorize.
- b. the expedition was justified under the "general welfare" clause of the Constitution because of the advances in science that were expected from the trip.
- c. the Corps of Discovery would build forts along the Mississippi, so the expedition was warranted under the power of Congress to provide for a "common defense."
- d. the trip would provide a venue for making important land boundary treaties with the Indians, a power assigned to the president and the Senate by the Constitution.

5. Which of these statements is true regarding the Lewis and Clark Expedition?

- a. It yielded a treasure trove of information about western North America, especially increasing understanding of the nation's geography.
- b. It was accomplished relatively inexpensively and with almost no casualties.
- c. It settled forever the notion that there was an easy, quick passage through the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast.

d. All of these statements are true regarding the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

6. *One of the reasons Napoleon was willing to sell the Louisiana Territory was that:*

a. he was shifting his colonizing efforts to regions of West Africa.

b. increased unrest among certain Indian tribes in the Mississippi Valley, made him think better of trying to settle it.

c. he remembered the difficulties the French had experienced with that region before the American Revolution.

d. he was having difficulties controlling another colony in the Caribbean and needed money for an anticipated war with Britain.

7. *Which of the following statements is not true with regard to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's leadership in the space program. He:*

a. established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

b. eventually saw the wisdom of shifting Wernher von Braun and his rocket engineers from military missile building to the NASA program.

c. had the privilege of welcoming Alan Shepard back to earth after his first Freedom 7 mission;

d. caused concern at NASA when he recommended cuts in their Saturn program in 1960.

8. *Which of these statements is true of President John F. Kennedy's role in the space program during the first months of his presidency. He:*

a. immediately supported a space shuttle program that would make elaborate research missions to the moon more practical.

b. used the occasion of his first inaugural address to promote an aggressive program that would put an American astronaut on the moon ahead of the Soviets.

c. appointed a Committee on Space whose chairman happened to be opposed to the idea of manned space flights.

d. established a subcommittee of NASA to develop the lunar landing mission.

9. Yuri Gagarin orbited the earth in Vostok on April 12, 1961 the United States. In response, President Kennedy:

a. called a press conference in which he vigorously defended the superiority of the U.S. space program, despite Gagarin's success.

b. asked for a high-level summit with Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, to discuss ways in which the United States and the Soviet Union could organize cooperative space missions.

c. held a meeting with his space advisors to determine in what way the United States could gain an advantage over the Soviets in the space program.

d. telephoned Premier Khrushchev and congratulated him on the remarkable accomplishment of the Soviet cosmonaut.

10. When Alan Shepard made his Freedom 7 flight on May 5, 1961:

a. he was able to orbit the Earth three times longer than Gagarin had.

b. President Kennedy declared a national holiday so everyone could watch.

c. his flight was watched by 45 million Americans, who seemed almost euphoric about his accomplishment.

d. he was the second American astronaut to orbit the earth in a space capsule.

11. After Alan Shepard's flight in Freedom 7, President John F. Kennedy:

a. made speeches in which he equated the competition between the Soviets and the United States as a battle between "freedom and tyranny."

b. went to Cape Canaveral to personally welcome home the second American astronaut from space.

c. took the United States to another step in the space program by promising that the Americans would be the first to land a man on the moon and bring him safely back;

d. did all of these things.

12. American astronauts landed on the moon:

- a. during the last months of the Kennedy presidency.
- b. only days after Kennedy's assassination in Dallas.
- c. about eight years after Alan Shepard made his flight.

QUIZ ANSWERS

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