

UNIT 1: Socratic Seminar Additional Questions

1. As settlers migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America, how did they develop different and increasingly complex societies? How did they adapt to and transform their diverse environments?
2. How did the arrival of Europeans in the Western Hemisphere in the 15th and 16th centuries trigger extensive demographic and social changes on both sides of the Atlantic?
3. In what ways did the European expansion into the Western Hemisphere cause intense social/religious, political, and economic competition in Europe and the promotion of empire building?
4. How did European overseas expansion and sustained contact with Africans and American Indians dramatically alter European views of social, political, and economic relationships among and between white and nonwhite peoples?
5. In what ways did Native peoples and Africans in the Americas strive to maintain their political and cultural autonomy in the face of European challenges to their independence and core beliefs?
6. What were the motivations and means that led to European exploration and colonization in America during the 1400s & 1500s? Prioritize your answer based on the most important motivation or means.
7. Why was England so far behind Spain and Portugal in their colonizing efforts? What changed for England and Spain?
8. Explain the competing interests of the European monarch and the religious leaders during the late 15th century. How did these interests impact the ways that the Native Americans were treated at this time?
9. Explain the similarities and differences of the policies toward Native Americans that were held by the major European powers. How did the Native Americans respond to the European policies?
10. Discuss the purposes and consequences of the Iroquois mourning wars, and how the formation of the Great League of Peace and Power affected them.
11. What examples are there, during the conquest/colonization of North America, of oppressed or downtrodden peoples rebelling? Were their rebellions successful? What were the consequences?
12. What role did European religious leaders have in the colonization of North America before 1607? Address differences between the Spanish, English, and French. How did Native Americans respond to them?
13. Native Americans lived in harmony with nature, emphasizing sustainability of the environment. It was solely Europeans who plundered resources and wreaked havoc on nature. Agree or disagree.