

American Literature: Revolutionary Reading Quiz

Name: _____

Hour: _____

Directions: Read the quiz and mark T for true or F for false in the "Before" column, guessing at the answers. Afterward, read the packet "The Revolutionary Period: Age of Reason." Finally, take the quiz again, putting your final answer in the "After" column. You will be graded on the answers in the "After" column.

Before After

_____ _____ 1. The writer Michel Guillaume Jean de Crevecoeur, who wrote *Letters from an American Farmer*, believed that America was a place where people from all over the world emigrated to, which made America a melting pot.

_____ _____ 2. Smallpox was a disease that was controlled easily by doctors in the 1700s. Therefore, few people died from the disease.

_____ _____ 3. Inoculation is a medical practice devised by a doctor from Turkey. Inoculation worked by having doctors infect healthy people with a small dose of a virus, which would give the person antibodies for that virus. After the inoculation, a person's immune system would defend it against the virus in the future.

_____ _____ 4. Most Americans in the 1700s were against inoculation, saying that it violated God's will. People fiercely debated the medical practice of inoculation.

_____ _____ 5. Most Americans in the 1700s were still highly Puritanical and did not look at social change or scientific research as a necessity in America. Most Americans rejected being practical and using logic and reason in their lives, letting religion act as the sole source of wisdom in their lives.

_____ _____ 6. The Enlightenment, which can also be called the Age of Reason, was a time period where mankind used rational thinking to find truth.

_____ _____ 7. Even though scientists and mathematicians were discovering new things and coming up with new ideas in the 1700s, most Americans rejected their discoveries and relied on the church for guidance and their church leaders for advice.

_____ _____ 8. Rational thinkers, especially Sir Isaac Newton, denied that God could make the universe because Newton thought the universe ran like a "perfect mechanism" and that God could not make something so grand work so well.

_____ 9. The Age of Reason first took shape in America and then the ideals moved to Europe. Americans like John Adams, Nelson Rockefeller, and Theodore Roosevelt came up with the philosophies of the Age of Reason, and the rest of the world followed their lead.

_____ 10. Americans like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were inventive and curious, helping Americans improve their living conditions, forms of government, and individual minds.

_____ 11. Rationalistic thinkers in America in the 1700s believed that God made it possible for all people, all of the time, to discover the laws of nature using their God-given faculty of reason.

_____ 12. Deism is a system of thought, not a religion. Deists believe that the universe is good and orderly, stressing that people are inherently good, not evil.

_____ 13. Even though deistic ideas spread throughout America in the 1700s, some people were still deeply entrenched in Puritanical thought. The Great Awakening in the 1730s and 1740s is an example of the religious revivalism that occurred at the same time of the growth of deism.

_____ 14. *Common Sense* was a pamphlet published in 1776 by Thomas Jefferson. The pamphlet was not popular and only a few people in the Virginia area read it.

_____ 15. Thomas Paine was the author of "The Declaration of Independence," which was a document that based its arguments on Puritanical assumptions about the relations among God, people, and the laws of nature.

_____ 16. In the late 1700s, the Age of Reason saw some of America's best thinkers focus on scientific, social, and political improvement.

_____ 17. The essays that explain the ideas behind the U.S. *Constitution* are the *The Federalist Papers*. These essays were written by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.

_____ 18. American poetry written in the late 1700s was largely written to encourage people take political action and fight for their liberty.

_____ 19. Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography* was a poorly written fictional story about a wealthy American who loses everything. The book is a model for stories about greed and lust.

_____ 20. Taken as a whole, America from the beginning of the 1700s until the end of the 1700s can be seen as moving away from a strict religious mindset bent on fire-and-brimstone theology and moving toward a more philosophical, rational, and logical mindset bent on making people's lives better.