“Categories”

In order to better understand the “workings” of history you need to know with what “type” (or category) of information you are dealing. Generally historical facts or data fall into five categories: (G) Geographic/Ecologic, (E) Economic, (S) Social, (P) Political, and (C) Cultural. (Sometimes, of course, a statement may contain aspects of more than one category or type. Mark each of the following sentences with G, E, S, P, or C to indicate what type(s) of fact or statement it contains.

1. Between 1276 and 1293 there was a prolonged and devastating drought that must have resulted in repeated crop failures and eventual famine for the Anasazis.

2. The many Pueblo peoples spoke several languages and shared a commitment to communal village.

3. Eventually, these Mississippian chiefdoms proved highly vulnerable to conquest, but the looser confederacies of the interior, the Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Creeks, were considerably more resilient.

4. The Indians who lived around the Roanoke settlement enjoyed prosperous livelihood farming, fishing, and hunting from their small villages.

5. Unlike the later Roanoke colonists, the Portuguese colonizers married native women and fitted into indigenous communities.

6. The Spanish crown created a system known as encomienda, in which colonial lords were given the right to the labor of a community of Indians, which in practice amounted to simply another form of slavery.

7. During the sixteenth century rising prices depressed the value of European wages by more than 50 percent.

8. The virtues of thrift, industry, sobriety, and personal responsibility, which Calvin argued were essential to the Christian life, likewise promoted material success.

9. Inspired by the Spanish success, in the second half of the sixteenth century both the French and the English attempted to colonize the coast of North America.

10. French fishermen and fur traders were not particularly interested in conquest; rather they established relationships based on the exchange of goods and ideas.

11. In El Paso, over the next generation the colonists and the Indians reached an implicit understanding: Pueblos dutifully observed Catholicism in the missionary chapels, while missionarieds tolerated the practice of traditional religion in the Indian underground kivas.
The colonial economy of New Mexico, based on small-scale agriculture and sheep raising, was never very prosperous.

In contrast to the colonists of New France, who were developing a distinctive American identity, the population of the Chesapeake maintained close emotional ties to England.

Taking advantage of a loophole in their charter, the Puritan leaders transferred company operations to America in 1629, and within a few years they had transformed the company into a civil government.

Lacking a single exportable commodity like tobacco, New Englanders were forced to diversify into farming, fishing, and lumbering.

During the Puritan Commonwealth in England, colonial assemblies grew increasingly powerful and began to establish a tradition of independence.

Pennsylvania’s Quaker values and ability to maintain peaceful relations with the Indians was the great exception of the late seventeenth century.

King Philip’s War marked the end of organized Indian resistance in New England and took an enormous toll on human life and property.

The soil and climate of the Carolinas created particularly favorable conditions for the growing of rice.

African American slave communities combined elements both of African languages and of English to form dialects that allowed many different African ethnic groups to communicate with one another.

In all the West African societies the most important institution was the local community, which was organized by kinship.

Africans made up the largest group of people to come to the Americas before the nineteenth century.

There are indications that the first Africans who worked in the tobacco fields of Virginia were not slaves at all, but servants.

Improvements in living conditions also affected Africans, increasing their rates of survival, and planters began to see more advantage in the purchase of slaves rather than continuing to use the declining supply of indentured servants from Europe.

In the 1740’s Elizabeth Pinckney successfully adapted West Indian indigo to the low country climate and grew it successfully in the high ground areas of South Carolina.

The burial ceremony, perhaps the most important of the slave rituals, was often held at night because slave owners objected to the continuation of African traditions.
27. Slavery contributed enormously to the economic growth and development of Europe during the colonial era, and it was especially important to Great Britain’s industrial revolution in the eighteenth.

28. The mercantilist era was thus a period of violent competition among European nation-states.

29. Although the New England shipbuilding industry was greatly stimulated by the allowance under the Navigation Acts, the greatest benefits for the port cities of the North came from their commercial relationship to the slave colonies,

30. Although there was no colonial aristocracy—no nobility or royal appointments—the landed elite of the slave colonies came very close to constituting one.

31. Between 1651 and 1696 Parliament passed a series of Navigation Acts, which created the legal and institutional structure of Britain’s eighteenth-century colonial system.

32. In the Chesapeake, free blacks were a pariah group who raised the status of poor white colonials by contrast.

33. As slavery became increasingly important Virginia officials took considerable care to create legal distinctions between free whites and slaves.

34. During the summer and autumn of 1765 the Stamp Act created a crisis of unprecedented proportions, especially since it affected lawyers, printers, tavern owners, and other influential colonists.

35. The British argued that Americans were subject to the acts of Parliament by the fact of “virtual representation” under which members of Parliament were thought to represent not just their districts but also all citizens of the empire.

36. In the fall of 1765 British merchants worried about the effects of the growing nonimportation movements on their businesses.

37. The emotional ties to Britain proved difficult to break, but Thomas Paine’s pamphlet Common Sense, published in 1776, helped to arouse widespread anger toward Britain among the colonists.

38. It was at Lexington and Concord that the Revolutionary War first began.

39. During the Revolutionary War, about one fifth of the colonists remained loyal to Britain, and many others remained undecided, waiting for a clear turn in the tide of the struggle before declaring their allegiance.

40. The opening section of the Declaration of Independence expressed the deeply held beliefs of the signers when it stated: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness…”