



Take the Diversity Quiz:

Make your selections below then turn sheet over to see how well you did!

1. Members of a race can be identified by their:

- A. Blood group
- B. Skin color
- C. Ancestry
- D. Genes
- E. All of the above
- F. None of the above

2. Which two populations are most likely, on average, to be genetically similar?

- A. Italians and Ethiopians
- B. Senegalese and Kenyans
- C. Italians and Swedes
- D. Chinese and Lakota (Sioux)
- E. Saudi Arabians and Ethiopians

3. Which continent has the greatest human genetic diversity?

- A. Europe
- B. Asia
- C. South America
- D. Africa
- E. North America

4. The characteristic that Greeks felt distinguished them from "barbarians" was:

- A. Religion
- B. Skin color
- C. Language
- D. Customs
- E. Hairiness
- F. Intelligence

5. Which of the following was NOT an important reason why African slavery first took root in North America:

- A. As non-Christians, they had no Legal protections
- B. They were skilled semi-tropical farmers
- C. The supply of indentured servants from Europe was becoming unreliable
- D. They were deemed innately inferior
- E. Unlike Native Americans, they were resistant to European diseases
- F. They could not easily run away

6. In America, the rise of the idea of white supremacy was tied most directly to:

- A. Indian removal
- B. Slavery
- C. The Declaration of Independence
- D. The U.S. Constitution
- E. Ancient Greece

7. Which was NOT introduced to Indians by whites?

- A. An Indian identity
- B. Democracy
- C. Identity by "blood quantum"
- D. Horses
- E. Measles

8. Which of the following is NOT a result of federal government policies?

- A. Redlining
- B. Urban renewal
- C. Deterioration of inner cities
- D. Affirmative action quotas
- E. The wealth gap between black and white families

9. Which is NOT an example of a government racial preference program?

- A. 1964 Civil Rights Act
- B. 1862 Homestead Act
- C. 1790 Naturalization Act
- D. 1934 Federal Housing Administration
- E. 1935 Social Security Act

STOP! DO NOT PEEK UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE!

Answer: F. None of the above. There are no traits, no characteristics, not even one gene that distinguishes all members of one so-called race from all members of another. The A, B, O blood groups can be found in all the world's peoples (Estonians and Papua New Guineans, for example, have the same frequencies). Skin color tends to correspond with latitude not race.

Answer: E. Saudi Arabians and Ethiopians. Populations that live near each other geographically tend to be more alike than populations that live far apart. This is because they are more likely to have intermixed in the past and therefore share genetic similarities. Often when variation seems to follow racial lines, it is more accurately explained by geographic distance.

Answer: E. Africa. All modern humans originated from Africa, and we spent most of our evolution as a species together there. All the other populations of the world can be seen as a subset of Africans – every human trait found elsewhere can also be found in Africa, with the exception of a few recent variations favored by the environment or sexual selection – such as light-complected skin.

Answer: C. Language. The word barbarian comes from the Greek word “barbar,” for stammerer, or unintelligible, or he who does not speak Greek. The Greeks, like most all ancient peoples, did not attribute much meaning to people's physical appearance. For Greeks, it was language that was the difference that made a difference.

Answer: D. They were deemed innately inferior. Throughout much of history, societies have enslaved people, often as a result of conquest, war or even debt. African slaves were well suited to labor in North America. Unlike the Indians, they were resistant to European diseases; they could not easily run away; they were not Christians (and hence unprotected by English law); and they were skilled semi-tropical farmers. Over time, the degradation of slavery became identified with blackness, giving white Americans the idea that Africans were a fundamentally different kind of people.

Answer: C. The Declaration of Independence. Ironically, it was freedom not slavery that gave rise to modern theories of race. Until the Age of Revolution, slavery was an unquestioned “fact of life.” It was only when Americans proclaimed the radical new idea that “all men are created equal” that slavery was first challenged as immoral. As historian Barbara Fields notes, the new idea of race helped explain why some people could be denied the rights.

Answer: B. Democracy. United States' representative democracy drew upon the traditions of the Iroquois Confederacy. Indians did not think of themselves as Indians when European settlers arrived, but rather as members of separate nations, divided by language, custom and religion. The idea of “blood quantum,” i.e., the determination of Indian identity by ancestry, was imposed by the federal government. In contrast, tribal membership traditionally was open to anyone, even Europeans, as long as they accepted tribal customs and authority. There were no horses in the New World until they were brought over by Europeans.

Answer: D. Affirmative action quotas. Federal affirmative action guidelines specifically prohibit quotas. Beginning in the 1930s, the Federal Housing Administration and related programs made it possible for millions of average white Americans to own a home for the first time and set off the post-WWII suburban building boom. The government established a national neighborhood appraisal system, explicitly tying mortgage eligibility to race, a policy known today as “redlining.” The FHA and other government policies made possible the post-World War II all white suburbs, while people of color and in central cities were denied loans.

Answer: A. 1964 Civil Rights Act. The Civil Rights Act made racial discrimination in public places illegal. The other programs are all examples of racial preferences - for white people. Over a 40-year period, the Homestead Act gave away for free, 270 million acres of land, formerly Indian Territory, almost all of it to white people. The Naturalization Act allowed only “free white persons” to adopt citizenship, thus opening voting rights and property ownership to European immigrants but barring Asians and other groups. Racial barriers to citizenship were not removed until 1952. The Federal Housing Administration made it possible for millions of average white Americans – but not others – to own a home for the first time.