

Mark Twain Test

1. On the night Samuel Clemens was born, _____ was visible in the sky.
 - A. the space station
 - B. Halley's comet
 - C. Neptune
 - D. Pluto
2. Sam grew up near the _____.
 - A. Pacific Ocean
 - B. Colorado River
 - C. Gulf of Mexico
 - D. Mississippi River
3. Samuel Clemens based his character of Huckleberry Finn on his _____.
 - A. boyhood friend Tom Blankenship
 - B. brother Orion
 - C. Uncle John Quarles
 - D. friend Dan'l
4. Sam at age 11 worked as an apprentice at a _____.
 - A. blacksmith shop
 - B. retail merchant's store
 - C. newspaper
 - D. logging company
5. Sam quit working for his brother because _____.
 - A. he wasn't getting paid
 - B. he and Orion had a fight
 - C. his mother told him to quit
 - D. he got married
6. As a boy when he stowed away on a riverboat they _____.
 - A. taught him how to pilot the boat
 - B. put him off at the next stop
 - C. charged him with a crime and put him in jail
 - D. called his mother to come and get him
7. When he gave his first after-dinner speech _____.
 - A. he was so scared he couldn't speak
 - B. they paid him a lot of money
 - C. the people loved to hear him speak
 - D. he decided never to give another speech
8. A _____ was the origin of the term "Mark Twain".
 - A. nickname given by his mother
 - B. magazine article
 - C. Broadway show
 - D. nautical term
9. A "fathom" is _____.
 - A. 6 feet
 - B. 12 feet
 - C. 30 feet
 - D. 6 inches
10. Riverboat traffic was halted on the Mississippi River during the Civil War because _____.
 - A. the water was too shallow
 - B. there weren't enough boats
 - C. they wanted to stop supplies from getting to the South
 - D. they wanted to stop gambling

11. When he worked as a riverboat pilot, Twain earned _____ a year.

- A. \$500
- B. \$3,000
- C. \$200
- D. \$61,000

12. Missouri was unique during the Civil War because it _____.

- A. had no slaves in the state
- B. it seceded from the Union
- C. was a slave-holding state in the Union
- D. refused to take sides in the conflict

13. The Marion Rangers of which Twain was a part _____.

- A. disbanded in less than a month
- B. fought bravely during the war
- C. fought with the Union troops
- D. freed the slaves in the state

14. In Nevada Mark Twain lost all his money by _____.

- A. writing articles no one wanted to read
- B. investing in worthless mines
- C. unwise investments in the stock market
- D. living a lavish lifestyle

15. When prospecting for gold he _____.

- A. found a lot of gold by panning for it
- B. met his future bride
- C. nearly froze in the winter
- D. heard interesting stories

16. He wrote stories from Hawaii, which were then known as the _____.

- A. Isles of the Pacific
- B. Bahamas
- C. Sandwich Islands
- D. Caribbean Islands

17. He wrote a book about his boyhood called _____.

- A. Tom Sawyer
- B. The Innocents Abroad
- C. The Jumping Frog
- D. Recollections of Joan of Arc

18. Mark Twain was able to get out of debt by _____.

- A. selling his big house
- B. signing books at stores
- C. giving lectures
- D. performing piano concerts

19. Twain was very proud when he received an honorary degree from _____.

- A. Harvard
- B. Purdue
- C. William and Mary
- D. Oxford

20. The science fiction novel he wrote was called _____.

- A. The Prince and the Pauper
- B. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- C. Chapters from My Autobiography
- D. Life on the Mississippi