

TEXT A

Alexander Hamilton was not born in the Colonies: he was born in (1)_____ on the Caribbean island of Nevis. His mother and father were not married when Alexander was born, as his mother was still married to another man, this meant that Alexander was (2)_____, a thing he had been sensitive about all his life. During his early years, his father abandoned him and his brother, then their mother (3)_____; after that, they moved in with their cousin, who (4)_____ soon after because of his debts, so they ended up growing up in different families.

They both studied in New York thanks to a family friend, who was (5)_____: Alexander worked with him while becoming a lawyer and showed his skills both in (6) _____ and as a speaker and (7)_____. He supported the colonials and served under (8)_____. His contribution to The U.S. Constitution was seminal; moreover, he was the first (9)_____ and convinced Washington to set up a (10)_____, which helped the newborn country to survive and thrive in its early years.

On July 11th, 1804, Hamilton was fatally shot at dawn because of (11) _____ against the U.S. Vice-President Aaron Burr, and died after one day of agony. They were (12)_____. Burr felt offended because a newspaper reported that Hamilton allegedly expressed a “despicable opinion” about him during a dinner party. Hamilton had pledged to (13)_____, which he probably did, but Burr didn’t know that and responded to fire by aiming at his rival. Just three years earlier, (14)_____, died in a pistol duel, too.

TEXT B

Alexander Hamilton was not born in the Colonies: he was born in 1755 on the Caribbean island of (1)_____. His mother and father were not married when Alexander was born, as his mother was still married to another man, this meant that Alexander was illegitimate, a thing he had been sensitive about all his life. During his early years, his father (2)_____, then their mother fell ill and died; after that, they moved in with their cousin, who committed suicide soon after because of (3)_____, so they ended up growing up in different families.

They both studied in (4)_____ thanks to a family friend, who was an important tradesman: Alexander worked with him while becoming (5)_____ and showed his skills both in business and as a (6)_____ and writer. He supported (7)_____ and served under George Washington. His contribution to (8)_____ was seminal; moreover, he was the first Secretary of the Treasury and convinced (9)_____ to set up a Central Bank, which helped the newborn country to survive and thrive in its early years.

On July 11th, 1804, Hamilton was fatally shot at dawn because of a pistol duel against (10)_____, and died after one day of agony. They were long-time political rivals. Burr felt offended because a newspaper reported that Hamilton allegedly (11)_____ during a dinner party. Hamilton had pledged to delope (throw away) his shot, which he probably did, but Burr didn’t know that and (12)_____. Just three years earlier, Alexander’s first son, Philip, (13)_____, too.

Answer the following questions:

1) How old was Alexander when he died?

2) Why were Alexander Hamilton's early years of life all but easy?

3) While growing up, Alexander proved himself to be well-versed in two very different lines of work. Which ones?

4) What did Hamilton do during the American Revolution? Was he a loyalist?

5) Hamilton helped shape both the U.S.A.'s political and financial future. How?

6) Why was Aaron Burr on such bad terms with Hamilton?

7) Was Hamilton the only one in his family who died in a pistol duel?
