

World History Basics

World History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with developing the first form of writing, cuneiform?

- A) Ancient Egypt
- B) Ancient Greece
- C) Mesopotamia**
- D) Indus Valley Civilization

2. Who was the first Emperor of Rome?

- A) Julius Caesar
- B) Nero
- C) Augustus**
- D) Constantine

3. The Renaissance, a period of great artistic and intellectual revival, began in which European country?

- A) France
- B) England
- C) Spain
- D) Italy**

4. What was the primary reason for the construction of the Great Wall of China?

- A) To facilitate trade
- B) To mark territory
- C) To defend against invasions**
- D) As a religious monument

5. Who is known for leading the Protestant Reformation and writing the Ninety-five Theses?

- A) John Calvin
- B) Martin Luther**
- C) Huldrych Zwingli
- D) Desiderius Erasmus

6. The Age of Exploration was a period when Europeans began to explore the rest of the world. Which explorer is famous for reaching the Americas in 1492?

- A) Ferdinand Magellan
- B) Vasco da Gama
- C) Christopher Columbus**
- D) Marco Polo

7. The Industrial Revolution, which began in the late 18th century, was characterized by a shift from agrarian economies to what?

A) Service-based economies

B) Manufacturing and machine production

C) Information technology

D) Subsistence farming

8. What event is often considered the start of World War I?

A) The bombing of Pearl Harbor

B) The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

C) The invasion of Poland

D) The Treaty of Versailles

9. Who was the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917?

A) Joseph Stalin

B) Leon Trotsky

C) Vladimir Lenin

D) Mikhail Gorbachev

10. The Cold War was a geopolitical struggle primarily between which two superpowers?

A) United States and China

B) United States and Soviet Union

C) United Kingdom and France

D) Germany and Japan

11. In which ancient civilization were the pyramids of Giza built?

A) Mesopotamia

B) Ancient Greece

C) Ancient Rome

D) Ancient Egypt

12. Who was the Carthaginian general who famously crossed the Alps with elephants to fight Rome during the Second Punic War?

A) Scipio Africanus

B) Hannibal Barca

C) Julius Caesar

D) Alexander the Great

13. The Magna Carta, a charter of rights, was signed in England in which year?

- A) 1066
- B) 1215**
- C) 1492
- D) 1776

14. Which empire was known for its elaborate system of roads and its leader Ashoka the Great, who converted to Buddhism?

- A) Persian Empire
- B) Mauryan Empire**
- C) Han Dynasty
- D) Roman Empire

15. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century had a significant impact on the spread of what?

- A) Religious texts
- B) Scientific knowledge and ideas
- C) Both A and B**
- D) Military strategies

16. What was the primary goal of the Silk Road?

- A) Military conquest
- B) Religious pilgrimage
- C) Trade and cultural exchange**
- D) Exploration of new lands

17. The French Revolution, which began in 1789, aimed to overthrow the monarchy and establish what?

- A) A dictatorship
- B) A republic**
- C) An empire
- D) A theocracy

18. Who is credited with the theory of relativity and developed the equation $E=mc^2$?

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Galileo Galilei
- C) Albert Einstein**
- D) Nikola Tesla

19. The United Nations was founded after World War II to promote what?

- A) Global warfare
- B) International cooperation and peace**
- C) Economic isolation
- D) Cultural dominance

20. The Byzantine Empire was the continuation of which earlier empire?

- A) Persian Empire
- B) Greek Empire
- C) Roman Empire**
- D) Ottoman Empire

21. What major event marked the end of the feudal system in Japan?

- A) The Meiji Restoration**
- B) The Sengoku period
- C) The Edo period
- D) The Heian period

22. The voyages of Captain James Cook in the 18th century led to the European exploration and mapping of which region?

- A) Africa
- B) North America
- C) Australia and the Pacific Islands**
- D) South America

23. Which pharaoh is most famous for his tomb being discovered largely intact in the Valley of the Kings?

- A) Ramesses II
- B) Akhenaten
- C) Tutankhamun**
- D) Hatshepsut

24. The Magna Carta was signed by King John of England in response to demands from which group?

- A) The clergy
- B) The common people
- C) The barons**
- D) Foreign rulers

25. The concept of democracy, meaning 'rule by the people,' originated in which ancient city-state?

- A) Sparta
- B) Rome
- C) Athens**
- D) Corinth