

# History of Card Games

Card Games · Answer Key · 18 Questions

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**1. Which country is widely credited with the invention of the first playing cards during the 9th century?**

- A) China**
- B) Egypt
- C) Greece
- D) France

**2. What century do historians believe playing cards first appeared in Europe?**

- A) 10th century
- B) 14th century**
- C) 18th century
- D) 20th century

**3. Which suit system became the standard for modern decks in 15th-century France?**

- A) Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs, Spades**
- B) Swords, Cups, Coins, Batons
- C) Stars, Circles, Triangles, Squares
- D) Leaves, Acorns, Hearts, Bells

**4. What material were the earliest known playing cards in China primarily made from?**

- A) Plastic
- B) Paper**
- C) Animal skin
- D) Stone

**5. The 'standard' 52-card deck format is most closely associated with which historical region's design?**

- A) French**
- B) German
- C) Italian
- D) Spanish

**6. What were the earliest European playing cards often painted by hand using, before the invention of the printing press?**

- A) Digital printers
- B) Stencils and woodblocks**
- C) Inkjets
- D) Oil pastels

**7. Which court card was the first to be standardized with a 'double-headed' design to prevent players from knowing if the card was upside down?**

- A) The Jack
- B) The Queen
- C) The King
- D) All of the above**

**8. What invention in the 15th century allowed for the mass production of playing cards?**

- A) The internet
- B) The printing press**
- C) The steam engine
- D) The camera

**9. In the earliest Chinese card games, what was the currency often represented on the cards?**

- A) Gold coins
- B) Silk ribbons
- C) Paper money**
- D) Grain

**10. Which of these is considered the oldest surviving deck of playing cards in the world?**

- A) The Mamluk deck**
- B) The Bicycle deck
- C) The Nintendo deck
- D) The Tarot de Marseille

**11. The four suits in the standard deck are thought to represent which four medieval social classes?**

- A) Clergy, Nobility, Merchants, Peasants**
- B) Artists, Scientists, Soldiers, Sailors
- C) Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses
- D) North, South, East, West

**12. Which company, founded in 1889, originally started by manufacturing Hanafuda playing cards in Japan?**

- A) Sony
- B) Nintendo**
- C) Toyota
- D) Sega

**13. What feature was added to the corners of playing cards in the late 19th century to make them easier to read when fanned?**

A) Color codes

**B) Corner indices (numbers/letters)**

C) Braille

D) Gold leaf

**14. During which century did the 'Joker' card first appear in American card decks?**

A) 16th century

**B) 19th century**

C) 12th century

D) 21st century

**15. Which game, first described in 1526, is considered one of the earliest ancestors of modern Poker?**

**A) Pochen**

B) Solitaire

C) War

D) Bridge

**16. Before the standard 52-card deck, what was the primary purpose of Tarot cards in Italy?**

A) Fortune telling

B) Scientific study

C) Recording weather

**D) Game playing**

**17. What substance was added to the surface of playing cards in the early 20th century to make them more durable and slippery?**

**A) Varnish or plastic coating**

B) Sandpaper

C) Fabric

D) Heavy glue

**18. The term 'Ace' comes from the Latin word 'as', which originally referred to what?**

A) A winner

**B) A single unit**

C) A joker

D) A king