

History of Card Games

Card Games · Practice Test · 18 Questions

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