

Maritime Technology Milestones

Maritime Technology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the invention of the 'diolkos', a paved trackway used to transport ships across the Isthmus of Corinth?

- A) Ancient Greeks**
- B) Ancient Egyptians
- C) Phoenicians
- D) Romans

2. What was the primary purpose of the 'John Harrison H4' chronometer, which revolutionized maritime navigation in the 18th century?

- A) Measuring water depth
- B) Determining longitude at sea**
- C) Predicting tidal patterns
- D) Calculating ship displacement

3. The 'Savannah', which crossed the Atlantic in 1819, holds what distinction in maritime history?

- A) First ship to use a nuclear reactor
- B) First iron-hulled merchant vessel
- C) First steamship to cross the Atlantic**
- D) First ship equipped with radar

4. Which invention allowed deep-sea divers to remain underwater for extended periods by supplying compressed air from the surface?

- A) Bathysphere
- B) Diving bell**
- C) Scuba gear
- D) Rebreather

5. Who is credited with inventing the modern 'screw propeller', which replaced the paddle wheel for ship propulsion in the 19th century?

- A) Robert Fulton
- B) Isambard Kingdom Brunel
- C) Francis Pettit Smith**
- D) James Watt

6. The 'Batfish' was an early type of submarine developed during WWII primarily for what purpose?

A) Torpedo launching

B) Radar-guided surveillance

C) Mine sweeping

D) Deep sea research

7. What device, developed in the early 20th century, uses sound pulses to determine the depth of the seafloor or detect submerged objects?

A) Loran

B) Sonar

C) GPS

D) Sextant

8. The 'USS Holland' (1897) was significant because it was the first submarine to be formally commissioned by which navy?

A) Royal Navy

B) Imperial Japanese Navy

C) United States Navy

D) Imperial German Navy

9. Which structural innovation in 19th-century shipbuilding allowed for larger, more rigid vessels, such as the 'Great Eastern'?

A) Double-hull construction

B) Transverse framing

C) Iron hull plating

D) Hydraulic steering

10. The 'trireme', a signature vessel of ancient Mediterranean navies, was defined by what specific technological feature?

A) Three banks of oars

B) Triple masts

C) Three iron rams

D) Three separate decks

11. What was the main function of the 'Astrolabe' when adapted for maritime use by 15th-century explorers?

A) Determining latitude by celestial observation

B) Measuring wind speed

C) Calculating current direction

D) Charting underwater reefs

12. Which vessel, launched in 1954, was the world's first nuclear-powered submarine?

- A) USS Nautilus
- B) HMS Dreadnought
- C) USS Enterprise
- D) Soviet K-3

13. The 'Fulton's Folly' was the nickname given to which pioneering steam-powered vessel?

- A) The Clermont
- B) The Charlotte Dundas
- C) The Comet
- D) The Savannah

14. Before the invention of radar, what optical device was commonly used on bridges for long-range communication between ships?

- A) Semaphore
- B) Heliograph
- C) Telescope
- D) Signal lamp

15. The 'Great Britain', designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, was the first ship to combine which three specific technologies?

- A) Iron hull, screw propeller, steam engine
- B) Steel hull, paddle wheel, nuclear power
- C) Wood hull, sails, screw propeller
- D) Iron hull, turbine, radar

16. What did the 'plimsoll line', invented by Samuel Plimsoll in 1876, help prevent in the shipping industry?

- A) Collisions in fog
- B) Overloading of vessels
- C) Engine overheating
- D) Navigation errors

17. The 'Bathyscaphe Trieste', which reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench in 1960, was a type of:

- A) Deep-diving submersible
- B) Surface research vessel
- C) Cargo submarine
- D) Hydrofoil boat

18. Which navigational instrument, consisting of a magnetized needle, was first used for maritime orientation by Chinese sailors during the Song Dynasty?

- A) Sextant
- B) Magnetic Compass**
- C) Backstaff
- D) Cross-staff