

# Maritime Technology Milestones

Maritime Technology · Practice Test · 18 Questions

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**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