

Mysteries of Magic: A Historical Journey

Magic & Illusion History · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Long ago, people believed some magic tricks were done by:

- A) Secret machines
- B) Tiny robots
- C) Invisible fairies**
- D) Clever hands

2. What were ancient Egyptian priests sometimes said to do using illusions?

- A) Make statues dance**
- B) Fly to the moon
- C) Talk to dinosaurs
- D) Bake magical cakes

3. In olden times, what was a common place to see magicians perform for crowds?

- A) On a spaceship
- B) In a quiet library
- C) At a bustling market or fair**
- D) Inside a volcano

4. What is a famous type of trick where a magician makes something disappear and reappear?

- A) Levitation
- B) Escapology
- C) Card manipulation
- D) The vanishing act**

5. What was the name of a famous magician from the early 1900s known for his grand illusions and escape acts?

- A) Merlin
- B) Harry Houdini**
- C) Gandalf
- D) Dumbledore

6. What does a magician often use to distract the audience while they perform a trick?

- A) A loud alarm
- B) A very boring story
- C) Misdirection**
- D) A magic spell book

7. Which historical magician was known for making a famous statue disappear and reappear?

- A) David Copperfield
- B) Robert-Houdin
- C) P. T. Barnum

D) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin

8. What is the art of making oneself seem to float or fly called?

A) Telekinesis

B) Levitation

C) Invisibility

D) Teleportation

9. Before electricity, what kind of lights were often used to light up stages for magic shows?

A) Glow sticks

B) Candles and gas lamps

C) Fireflies in jars

D) Moonbeams

10. In the history of magic, what is a 'prop'?

A) A magician's costume

B) An object used in a trick

C) A special chair

D) A type of magic wand

11. What is the term for a magician who performs tricks with cards, coins, and other small objects?

A) An escape artist

B) A mentalist

C) A close-up magician

D) A stage illusionist

12. What were the earliest forms of magic often connected to in ancient cultures?

A) Science experiments

B) Religion and rituals

C) Cooking recipes

D) Building bridges

13. Who is often called the 'Father of Modern Magic' for his contributions to stage illusion and showmanship?

- A) Penn Jillette
- B) David Blaine
- C) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin**
- D) Siegfried Fischbacher

14. What famous magician was known for sawing a woman in half?

- A) The Great Gambini
- B) Doug Henning
- C) P. T. Barnum
- D) The Great Lafayette**

15. What is the study and practice of creating illusions for entertainment called?

- A) Astronomy
- B) Geology
- C) Illusionism**
- D) Botany

16. What historical performance art often included magicians, acrobats, and other entertainers?

- A) Opera
- B) Ballet
- C) Circus**
- D) Monologue

17. In the 1700s and 1800s, magicians often performed tricks involving:

- A) Computers
- B) Smartphones
- C) Mechanical devices and automata**
- D) Space travel

18. What did ancient Greek and Roman entertainers sometimes do to impress audiences with illusions?

- A) Use fireworks
- B) Show magic carpets
- C) Use mirrors and smoke**
- D) Conjure real dragons

19. What is it called when a magician seems to read someone's mind or predict the future?

A) Escapology

B) Mentalism

C) Sleight of hand

D) Prestidigitation

20. What is the skill of using your hands to perform tricks so quickly that people can't see how it's done?

A) Mind reading

B) Sleight of hand

C) Super strength

D) Teleportation