

The History of Playing Cards

Card Games · Answer Key · 25 Questions

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

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

2. What is the name of the 14th-century European card deck that introduced the four suits still commonly used today?

- A) French deck
- B) Mamluk deck**
- C) Tarot deck
- D) Bicycle deck

3. Which invention in the 15th century allowed for the mass production and widespread popularity of playing cards in Europe?

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

4. In the 19th century, which company became the first to mass-produce the 'Bicycle' brand of playing cards?

- A) Nintendo
- B) United States Playing Card Company**
- C) Hasbro
- D) Mattel

5. What were the earliest playing cards in China traditionally made from?

- A) Paper**
- B) Animal skin
- C) Stone tablets
- D) Clay

6. Which suit was first introduced by French card makers in the late 15th century to replace older, more complex regional suits?

A) Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs, Spades

B) Swords, Cups, Coins, Batons

C) Stars, Moons, Suns, Clouds

D) Circles, Squares, Triangles, Lines

7. What century saw the invention of the 'Joker' card, originally created for the game Euchre?

A) 17th century

B) 18th century

C) 19th century

D) 20th century

8. Which game, first described in the 17th century, is often considered the ancestor of modern poker?

A) Poque

B) Solitaire

C) Bridge

D) War

9. What was the primary material used for early European playing cards before paper became standardized?

A) Parchment

B) Silk

C) Wood

D) Metal

10. In what decade was the first commercially available electronic card game console released?

A) 1970s

B) 1980s

C) 1990s

D) 2000s

11. Who is historically credited with the first standardization of the 52-card deck format?

A) The French

B) The Persians

C) The Romans

D) The Greeks

12. Which specific card game is cited as the first to be included in the modern Olympic Games (as a demonstration sport)?

- A) Bridge**
- B) Poker
- C) Solitaire
- D) Blackjack

13. What was the first major card game to feature a 'trump' suit system?

- A) Tarot**
- B) Poker
- C) War
- D) Rummy

14. Which company originally started as a manufacturer of 'Hanafuda' Japanese playing cards in 1889?

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

15. In the 1800s, what was the first common method used to prevent players from seeing the back of a card during a game?

- A) Uniform back patterns**
- B) Solid colors
- C) Watermarks
- D) Laminated coatings

16. Which century saw the first recorded use of the 'Queen' card in European decks?

- A) 14th century**
- B) 15th century
- C) 16th century
- D) 17th century

17. What is the first known printed reference to a 'deck' of cards found in a European document?

- A) 1377**
- B) 1450
- C) 1520
- D) 1605

18. Which card game became the first to be played competitively via the internet in the 1990s?

A) Bridge

- B) Hearts
- C) Solitaire
- D) Spades

19. What was the first suit to be standardized across most of Europe?

A) Swords

- B) Hearts
- C) Coins
- D) Batons

20. Which invention led to the creation of the 'plastic-coated' playing card in the 20th century?

A) Cellulose acetate

- B) Polyester
- C) Fiberglass
- D) Nylon

21. What is the oldest known game that uses a standard 52-card deck?

A) Piquet

- B) Poker
- C) Blackjack
- D) Bridge

22. In the 1500s, which region first popularized the use of double-ended court cards (allowing them to be read upside down)?

A) Austria

- B) Italy
- C) Spain
- D) England

23. What was the first playing card game designed specifically for a mobile device application?

A) Solitaire

- B) Poker
- C) Bridge
- D) Canasta

24. Which century saw the addition of corner indices (numbers/letters in the corners) to playing cards, making them easier to fan?

A) 18th century

B) 19th century

C) 20th century

D) 17th century

25. What was the first game to introduce the concept of 'bidding' as a mechanic in card play?

A) Tarot

B) Bridge

C) Whist

D) Euchre