

The History of Playing Cards

Card Games · Practice Test · 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