

Tattoo History Basics

Tattoo History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is one of the oldest known mummified human bodies discovered with tattoos?

- A) Ötzi the Iceman**
- B) King Tutankhamun
- C) Nefertiti
- D) Cleopatra

2. Which ancient civilization is known for its intricate mummification practices and evidence of tattoos on its people?

- A) Ancient Egypt**
- B) Ancient Rome
- C) Ancient Greece
- D) Mesopotamia

3. In many Polynesian cultures, what was the primary purpose of tattooing?

- A) To signify social status and ancestry**
- B) To ward off evil spirits
- C) As a form of punishment
- D) For purely decorative reasons

4. The word 'tattoo' is derived from a word in which language?

- A) Polynesian (Tahitian)**
- B) Latin
- C) Greek
- D) Sanskrit

5. What ancient practice involved using sharp tools to deposit pigment under the skin?

- A) Traditional tattooing**
- B) Body painting
- C) Scarification
- D) Henna application

6. Which group of people were known for their extensive tattooing traditions, often involving elaborate patterns?

- A) Maori people of New Zealand**
- B) Vikings
- C) Celts
- D) Samurai

7. Early tattooing tools were often made from what materials?

A) Bone, wood, or stone

B) Metal alloys

C) Animal hair

D) Plant fibers

8. What pigment was commonly used in ancient tattoos in many cultures?

A) Carbon (soot or charcoal)

B) Metallic gold

C) Plant-based dyes

D) Animal blood

9. In some ancient cultures, tattoos were believed to have what kind of power?

A) Spiritual or protective

B) Healing or medicinal

C) Magical or enchanting

D) Communicative or signaling

10. Evidence of tattooing has been found in archaeological digs dating back to which period?

A) Neolithic period

B) Bronze Age

C) Iron Age

D) Medieval period

11. What was the name given to the practice of tattooing by the ancient Greeks, often associated with marking slaves or criminals?

A) Stigma

B) Chirography

C) Dactylography

D) Graphology

12. Which continent has yielded some of the earliest archaeological evidence of tattooing?

A) Europe

B) Asia

C) Africa

D) South America

13. The term 'moko' refers to a traditional form of tattooing practiced by which indigenous group?

A) Maori

B) Inuit

C) Aboriginal Australians

D) Native Americans

14. In ancient Roman society, tattoos were sometimes used to mark what?

A) Soldiers or gladiators

B) Philosophers

C) Poets

D) Merchants

15. The practice of tattooing was prevalent among many indigenous peoples of the Americas. For example, some tribes used tattoos for what reason?

A) To commemorate important life events or achievements

B) To discourage marriage

C) To signal boredom

D) To avoid hard work

16. What material was often used as a pigment for tattoos in ancient China?

A) Ink made from plants and minerals

B) Crushed gemstones

C) Animal dyes

D) Metallic powders

17. Before the invention of modern tattoo machines, what was a common method for applying tattoos?

A) Hand-poking or tapping tools

B) Laser technology

C) Electric drills

D) Sewing needles

18. In some early cultures, tattoos were used as a form of initiation into what?

A) Adulthood or warrior status

B) Retirement

C) Childhood games

D) Religious fasting