

Tattoo History Basics

Tattoo History · Practice Test · 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