

Maritime Technology: Historical Milestones

Maritime Technology · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with developing the trireme, a powerful warship propelled by three banks of oars?

- A) The Romans
- B) The Egyptians
- C) The Greeks**
- D) The Phoenicians

2. The invention of the magnetic compass, crucial for navigation, is most commonly attributed to which country?

- A) Italy
- B) China**
- C) Portugal
- D) England

3. What type of ship was famously used by Ferdinand Magellan's expedition for the first circumnavigation of the Earth?

- A) Caravel
- B) Galleon**
- C) Carrack
- D) Cog

4. The Suez Canal, a vital artificial waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, was officially opened in which year?

- A) 1859
- B) 1901
- C) 1869**
- D) 1921

5. What propulsion system revolutionized maritime transport by replacing sails with steam power, first extensively used in the 19th century?

- A) Nuclear power
- B) Jet engines
- C) Steam engines**
- D) Diesel engines

6. The development of the astrolabe in ancient times primarily aided sailors in determining which aspect of their position?

- A) Longitude
- B) Latitude**
- C) Depth
- D) Wind direction

7. Which famous explorer used the 'Santa Maria' as his flagship during his first voyage to the Americas in 1492?

- A) Vasco da Gama
- B) Ferdinand Magellan
- C) Christopher Columbus**
- D) Sir Francis Drake

8. The Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, was completed and opened for use in which year?

- A) 1903
- B) 1914**
- C) 1925
- D) 1930

9. What technology, invented in the late 18th century, allowed ships to determine their longitude at sea with much greater accuracy?

- A) Sextant
- B) Chronometer**
- C) Telegraph
- D) Sonar

10. The Viking longships were renowned for their speed and shallow draft, allowing them to navigate what type of waterways?

- A) Deep ocean trenches
- B) Large inland lakes
- C) Rivers and coastal waters**
- D) Arctic ice floes

11. The earliest known use of anchors, to secure vessels in place, dates back to which ancient civilization?

- A) The Mayans
- B) The Greeks**
- C) The Mesopotamians
- D) The Incas

12. What significant advancement in shipbuilding in the 15th and 16th centuries enabled longer voyages and the transport of larger cargoes?

- A) The development of iron hulls
- B) The introduction of the caravel and carrack**
- C) The invention of radar
- D) The use of propellers

13. The first successful steam-powered warship, the 'Demologos' (later named 'Fulton's Steam Battery'), was built for which country during the War of 1812?

- A) Great Britain
- B) France
- C) The United States**
- D) Spain

14. The concept of a 'container ship,' designed to carry standardized cargo containers, became widespread after which decade?

- A) 1930s
- B) 1950s**
- C) 1970s
- D) 1990s

15. The invention of the sextant, a precise instrument for measuring angles, significantly improved the ability of mariners to determine their position using celestial bodies in which century?

- A) 16th century
- B) 17th century
- C) 18th century**
- D) 19th century