

Milestones in Archaeology

Archaeology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Who is credited with discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings in 1922?

- A) Howard Carter**
- B) Heinrich Schliemann
- C) Arthur Evans
- D) Mortimer Wheeler

2. What is the name of the basalt stele discovered in 1799 that provided the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs?

- A) The Behistun Inscription
- B) The Rosetta Stone**
- C) The Cyrus Cylinder
- D) The Dead Sea Scrolls

3. Which prehistoric site in Turkey is considered the world's oldest known monumental architecture, dating back to the 10th millennium BCE?

- A) Çatalhöyük
- B) Jericho
- C) Göbekli Tepe**
- D) Skara Brae

4. What invention, developed by Willard Libby in 1949, revolutionized the dating of organic archaeological materials?

- A) Dendrochronology
- B) Thermoluminescence
- C) Radiocarbon dating**
- D) Potassium-argon dating

5. In which cave did the first recognized cave paintings, depicting animals and human figures, gain international attention in 1879?

- A) Lascaux
- B) Altamira**
- C) Chauvet
- D) Cosquer

6. Which archaeological site, rediscovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham, is often referred to as the 'Lost City of the Incas'?

- A) Tikal
- B) Chichen Itza
- C) Machu Picchu**
- D) Cusco

7. The discovery of which hominid fossil in Ethiopia in 1974 provided significant insight into early human bipedalism?

- A) Lucy**
- B) Turkana Boy
- C) Piltdown Man
- D) Java Man

8. What was the primary purpose of the 'Cyrus Cylinder', discovered in 1879 in the ruins of Babylon?

- A) A treaty for maritime trade
- B) A royal decree of religious tolerance and repatriation**
- C) A record of astronomical observations
- D) A mathematical textbook

9. Which British archaeologist is famous for his extensive excavations at the Minoan palace of Knossos on Crete?

- A) Flinders Petrie
- B) Arthur Evans**
- C) Leonard Woolley
- D) Gordon Childe

10. The 'Dead Sea Scrolls' were primarily discovered by Bedouin shepherds in which location starting in 1947?

- A) Qumran Caves**
- B) Masada
- C) Mount Nebo
- D) Petra

11. What unique feature was discovered at the Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae in Scotland, preserved by sand dunes?

- A) Stone furniture and hearths**
- B) Metal smelting furnaces
- C) Extensive defensive walls
- D) Intricate gold jewelry

12. Who led the excavation of the Royal Cemetery at Ur, discovering the elaborate 'Standard of Ur'?

A) Max Mallowan

B) Leonard Woolley

C) Austen Henry Layard

D) Kathleen Kenyon

13. Which site in modern-day Iraq is often cited as one of the world's first cities, famous for its early ziggurats?

A) Nineveh

B) Uruk

C) Nimrud

D) Babylon

14. What technique involves analyzing the growth rings of trees to date wooden artifacts?

A) Stratigraphy

B) Dendrochronology

C) Palynology

D) Seriation

15. The 'Antikythera mechanism', recovered from a shipwreck in 1901, is famous for being what type of ancient device?

A) A navigational compass

B) An analog computer for astronomical positions

C) A clockwork musical instrument

D) A hydraulic irrigation pump

16. Which city, buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE, provided the first major 'snapshot' of Roman daily life through archaeological excavation?

A) Herculaneum

B) Pompeii

C) Stabiae

D) Oplontis

17. What significant archaeological discovery in 1928 revealed the existence of the Ugaritic civilization and an early alphabetic script?

A) Ras Shamra

B) Tell el-Amarna

C) Ebla

D) Mari

18. The 'Terracotta Army' was discovered in 1974 while excavating the tomb of which historical figure?

A) Emperor Wu of Han

B) Qin Shi Huang

C) Empress Wu Zetian

D) Genghis Khan

19. What was the primary material used for the oldest known stone tools, identified as the Oldowan industry?

A) Obsidian

B) Flint

C) Quartzite

D) Basalt

20. Which archaeological method involves measuring the depth and sequence of soil layers to determine the relative age of artifacts?

A) Radiocarbon dating

B) Stratigraphy

C) Archaeomagnetism

D) Typology