

Milestones in Archaeology

Archaeology · Practice Test · 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) Catalhöyük
- 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