

The Evolution of Ink: A Tattoo History Quiz

Tattoo History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization utilized the 'prick and poke' method, as evidenced by the 5,300-year-old mummified remains of Ötzi the Iceman?

- A) Ancient Egyptians
- B) Copper Age Europeans**
- C) Sumerians
- D) Indus Valley inhabitants

2. During the Edo period in Japan, what was the primary social association of the 'irezumi' full-body tattoo style known as 'horimono'?

- A) A sign of high imperial nobility
- B) A mark of criminal punishment
- C) A form of artistic expression among the merchant class and firefighters**
- D) A ritualistic rite of passage for samurai

3. In the 18th century, which explorer is credited with introducing the word 'tattoo' into the English language after witnessing the practice in Polynesia?

- A) James Cook**
- B) Ferdinand Magellan
- C) Vasco da Gama
- D) Francis Drake

4. What unique tattooing tradition practiced by the Maori people of New Zealand involves carving grooves into the skin to create permanent, textured designs?

- A) Kirituhi
- B) Moko kauae
- C) Ta moko**
- D) Whakairo

5. Which 19th-century American inventor patented the first electric tattoo machine in 1891, based on the design of Thomas Edison's autographic printer?

- A) Samuel O'Reilly**
- B) Percy Waters
- C) Charlie Wagner
- D) Augustus Wagner

6. Among the ancient Pazyryk culture in the Altai Mountains, what was the significance of the intricate animal-style tattoos found on mummified remains?

A) Status symbols denoting social rank and tribal affiliation

- B) Protection against evil spirits in the afterlife
- C) Medical records of ancient surgeries
- D) Evidence of trade routes with China

7. In ancient Rome, what was the primary purpose of 'stigmata' tattoos applied to slaves and prisoners?

A) Spiritual protection

B) Identification and marking of property

- C) Religious devotion
- D) Military rank distinction

8. The Haida people of the Pacific Northwest used tattoos primarily to represent what?

A) Personal wealth and currency

B) Ancestral crests and family lineage

- C) Military victory counts
- D) Religious pilgrimage success

9. In the 19th century, which 'freak show' attraction helped popularize tattooing in the West by performing as a 'tattooed lady' to earn money to purchase her freedom from slavery?

A) Irene Woodward

B) Olive Oatman

C) Nora Hildebrandt

D) Maud Wagner

10. What botanical ingredient was historically favored by traditional Polynesian tattooists to create the dark pigment used for their intricate geometric designs?

A) Sandalwood soot

B) Candlenut soot

- C) Indigo plant extract
- D) Charcoal of burnt coconut shells

11. During the mid-20th century, which tattoo artist, known as 'Sailor Jerry', pioneered the use of custom flash art and pioneered the use of autoclave sterilization?

A) Norman Collins

- B) Ed Hardy
- C) Cliff Raven
- D) Bert Grimm

12. Which historical group, known for their elaborate facial tattoos, practiced the custom of 'moko' where the designs functioned as a permanent 'signature' in legal documents?

A) The Ainu of Japan

B) The Maori of New Zealand

C) The Dayak of Borneo

D) The Berber of North Africa