

The Evolution of Ink: A Tattoo History Quiz

Tattoo History · Practice Test · 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