

A History of Tattoos

History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which famous mummy, discovered in the Alps, is the oldest known human with tattoos?

- A) King Tut
- B) Otzi the Iceman**
- C) Ramses II
- D) Cleopatra

2. What does the word 'tattoo' originate from in the Polynesian language?

- A) Tatau**
- B) Inkua
- C) Skinart
- D) Marka

3. Which ancient culture used tattoos to mark criminals and prisoners during the Edo period?

- A) Egypt
- B) Japan**
- C) Greece
- D) Rome

4. In ancient Egypt, who were the primary people historically documented to have worn tattoos?

- A) Priests
- B) Pharaohs
- C) Women**
- D) Soldiers

5. What natural material was commonly used to create black tattoo pigment in ancient times?

- A) Charcoal or soot**
- B) Crushed berries
- C) Tree sap
- D) Powdered chalk

6. Which explorer is credited with bringing the word 'tattoo' to the English language after his voyages in the Pacific?

- A) Christopher Columbus
- B) Captain James Cook**
- C) Marco Polo
- D) Ferdinand Magellan

7. What tool was traditionally used by Polynesian cultures to tap ink into the skin?

- A) Metal needles
- B) Bone combs**
- C) Obsidian shards
- D) Feather quills

8. In ancient Rome, what was a common purpose for tattooing people?

- A) Religious worship
- B) Fashion
- C) Identifying slaves and criminals**
- D) Tracking age

9. Which invention in 1891 made the process of tattooing faster and less painful?

- A) The electric tattoo machine**
- B) The laser printer
- C) The sewing needle
- D) The ink roller

10. Among the ancient Picts of Scotland, tattoos were often used to signify what?

- A) Wealth
- B) Social status and tribal affiliation**
- C) Religious conversion
- D) Criminal records

11. Which historical group used tattoos as part of protective religious rites?

- A) The Vikings
- B) The early Christians
- C) The Ancient Maya**
- D) The nomadic tribes of the Sahara

12. What was the primary method of 'removing' tattoos in some ancient cultures, which often left scars?

- A) Applying acid
- B) Dermabrasion or scraping**
- C) Using magnets
- D) Painting over them