

Ancient Civilizations Quiz

Ancient History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which ancient Mesopotamian civilization is credited with developing the first known writing system called cuneiform?

A) Sumerians

B) Egyptians

C) Phoenicians

D) Hittites

2. The Great Pyramid of Giza was constructed during which period of ancient Egyptian history?

A) New Kingdom

B) Middle Kingdom

C) Old Kingdom

D) Late Period

3. Which Chinese dynasty is associated with the start of the Great Wall and the terracotta army of the first emperor?

A) Han

B) Qin

C) Zhou

D) Shang

4. What was the primary function of the Athenian assembly known as the Ekklesia?

A) To judge criminal cases

B) To collect taxes

C) To vote on legislation and policy

D) To train soldiers

5. Which Roman leader was famously assassinated on the Ides of March in 44 BCE?

A) Augustus

B) Nero

C) Julius Caesar

D) Marcus Aurelius

6. The Indus Valley Civilization was centered primarily around which modern-day country?

A) Pakistan

B) Iran

C) Thailand

D) Iraq

7. Which ancient civilization is famous for creating the first alphabet that influenced later Greek and Latin scripts?

- A) Minoans
- B) Phoenicians**
- C) Mycenaeans
- D) Etruscans

8. Who was the legendary King of Babylon known for establishing one of the earliest written legal codes?

- A) Nebuchadnezzar II
- B) Sargon the Great
- C) Hammurabi**
- D) Cyrus the Great

9. Which battle during the Persian Wars saw a small force of Spartans famously hold off a large Persian army at a narrow pass?

- A) Battle of Marathon
- B) Battle of Salamis
- C) Battle of Thermopylae**
- D) Battle of Plataea

10. The concept of 'Mandate of Heaven' was used in ancient China to justify what?

- A) The construction of temples
- B) The divine right of a ruler to govern**
- C) The invention of paper
- D) The transition to democracy

11. What was the primary purpose of the 'Canopic jars' used by ancient Egyptians during the mummification process?

- A) To store water
- B) To hold the preserved internal organs**
- C) To keep jewelry for the afterlife
- D) To store grain for the tomb

12. Which Greek philosopher was the teacher of Alexander the Great?

- A) Socrates
- B) Plato
- C) Aristotle**
- D) Pythagoras

13. The Pax Romana refers to a long period of relative peace and stability in which empire?

- A) Persian Empire
- B) Roman Empire**
- C) Byzantine Empire
- D) Ottoman Empire

14. Which ancient city-state was the primary rival of Athens during the Peloponnesian War?

- A) Corinth
- B) Thebes
- C) Sparta**
- D) Megara

15. In ancient Roman society, what was the name for the wealthy, land-owning upper class?

- A) Plebeians
- B) Patricians**
- C) Equites
- D) Senators

16. Which river is famously known as the 'cradle' of ancient Egyptian civilization?

- A) Tigris
- B) Euphrates
- C) Nile**
- D) Indus

17. What archaeological discovery provided the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs?

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

18. Which civilization built the ancient city of Knossos on the island of Crete?

- A) Mycenaean
- B) Minoan**
- C) Trojan
- D) Dorian