

Ancient Civilizations Quiz

Ancient History · Practice Test · 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