

Tattoo History for Students

History · Answer Key · 20 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. Tattoos are created by placing what under the skin?

- A) Paint
- B) Ink**
- C) Glitter
- D) Chalk

3. What is the name of the tool traditionally used to tap ink into the skin in many Polynesian cultures?

- A) Tattoo machine
- B) Needle and thread
- C) Tattoo comb**
- D) Marker

4. In Ancient Egypt, tattoos were most commonly found on the bodies of which group?

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

5. What is the primary substance traditionally used to create black tattoo ink?

- A) Fruit juice
- B) Carbon or soot**
- C) Flower petals
- D) Clay

6. Which invention in 1891 changed how tattoos were applied in the Western world?

- A) The electric tattoo machine**
- B) The ballpoint pen
- C) The laser
- D) The printing press

7. Ancient Roman history records that tattoos were sometimes used as a mark of what?

- A) Royalty
- B) Professional athletes
- C) Punishment**
- D) Cooking skill

8. In many cultures, getting a tattoo is often a ritual to mark the transition from childhood to what?

- A) Adulthood**
- B) Retirement
- C) Schooling
- D) Travel

9. The word 'tattoo' comes from a Polynesian word 'tatau,' which means what?

- A) To paint
- B) To write
- C) To strike or tap**
- D) To color

10. Early maritime explorers like Captain James Cook helped bring the knowledge of tattooing from which region to Europe?

- A) The South Pacific**
- B) The Arctic
- C) South America
- D) Antarctica

11. Why did sailors often get tattoos of anchors or swallows?

- A) To look scary
- B) As good luck charms**
- C) To hide skin spots
- D) To show their age

12. What is the name of the medical professional who should always be consulted for skin safety?

- A) A dermatologist**
- B) A chef
- C) A dentist
- D) A plumber

13. Which ancient civilization used tattoos to show tribal status and achievements?

- A) The Mayans
- B) The Maori**
- C) The Romans
- D) The Spartans

14. In historical times, what was often used as a 'needle' to insert pigment into the skin?

- A) Bone, thorn, or wood**
- B) Plastic sticks
- C) Metal straws
- D) Glass shards

15. What is the scientific term for the middle layer of skin where tattoo ink is permanently deposited?

- A) Epidermis
- B) Dermis**
- C) Subcutaneous
- D) Pores

16. Before modern electricity, how did people manually insert ink into the skin?

- A) By painting the surface
- B) By hand-tapping or rubbing ink into wounds**
- C) By soaking in ink
- D) By using magnets

17. Many ancient cultures used tattoos to represent protection or what?

- A) Sports teams
- B) Spiritual beliefs**
- C) Shopping lists
- D) Weather forecasts

18. What do archaeologists study to learn about tattoos on ancient people?

- A) Ancient scrolls
- B) Mummified skin**
- C) Modern paintings
- D) Stone statues

19. In the 1800s, tattoos became popular among which group in London?

A) The Royal Family

B) Farmers

C) Construction workers

D) Teachers

20. Tattoos are permanent because ink particles are too large for which body system to remove?

A) The nervous system

B) The immune system

C) The digestive system

D) The skeletal system