

Tattoo History for Students

History · Practice Test · 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