

Tattoo History and Cultural Traditions

History · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which archaeological find, dating back to approximately 3300 BCE, is considered the oldest known evidence of tattooed human skin?

- A) The Ice Man, Ötzi**
- B) The Tollund Man
- C) King Tutankhamun
- D) The Lady of Dai

2. The word 'tattoo' is derived from the Tahitian word 'tatau', which means what?

- A) To color
- B) To strike**
- C) To mark
- D) To bless

3. In ancient Japan, during the Kofun period, tattoos were primarily used for what purpose?

- A) Displaying military rank
- B) Punishing criminals**
- C) Decorating nobility
- D) Religious initiation

4. Which explorer's journals from the late 18th century are credited with introducing the word 'tattoo' into the English language?

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

5. In ancient Egypt, evidence of tattoos has been found primarily on the mummified remains of which group?

- A) Pharaohs
- B) High priests
- C) Women**
- D) Scribes

6. The practice of 'Irezumi' refers to the traditional tattooing style of which country?

A) Thailand

B) Japan

C) Vietnam

D) China

7. Which invention in 1891 by Samuel O'Reilly revolutionized the speed and precision of modern tattooing?

A) The laser removal tool

B) The electric tattooing machine

C) The sterile needle cartridge

D) The rotary ink pump

8. In many ancient cultures, tattooing was used as a form of 'permanent jewelry'. What does this imply about the tattoos?

A) They were made of precious metals

B) They were meant to be temporary

C) They served as status symbols like adornments

D) They were only applied to the hands and feet

9. Which group of people in ancient Britain were named 'Picts' by the Romans, a term believed to mean 'the painted ones' due to their tattoos?

A) The Vikings

B) The Caledonians

C) The Anglo-Saxons

D) The Normans

10. Among the Maori people of New Zealand, what is the traditional facial tattoo called?

A) Moko

B) Tatau

C) Haka

D) Mana

11. In 19th-century maritime culture, sailors often got tattoos of an anchor to signify what?

A) Crossing the equator

B) Returning home safely

C) Completing a voyage across the Atlantic

D) Surviving a shipwreck

12. What substance was traditionally used by many ancient cultures to create the dark pigment for tattoos?

A) Crushed flower petals

B) Soot or charcoal

C) Ground limestone

D) Clay minerals

13. The 'Hand-tap' method of tattooing involves:

A) Using a laser to burn the skin

B) Using a needle and a mallet to tap ink into the skin

C) Using a pressurized air gun

D) Using a metal stylus to scratch the skin

14. During the Roman Empire, tattoos were frequently used to identify which group of people?

A) Members of the Senate

B) Slaves and soldiers

C) Foreign diplomats

D) Merchant traders

15. What is the primary function of the 'ta moko' in Maori society?

A) To display an individual's ancestry and social status

B) To identify enemies in battle

C) To prove a person has completed a marathon

D) To show a person's favorite animal

16. Which of these regions is famous for the 'Batok' tattooing method, traditionally performed using a thorn and a bamboo stick?

A) Scandinavia

B) The Kalinga region of the Philippines

C) The Amazon Basin

D) The Sahara Desert

17. Why were tattoos often discouraged or banned by the early Christian Church in the Roman Empire?

A) Because they were too expensive

B) Because the body was considered a temple created by God

C) Because the ink was poisonous

D) Because they hindered the use of armor

18. Which century saw the first 'tattoo parlors' begin to open in cities like New York and London?

- A) 17th century
- B) 18th century
- C) 19th century**
- D) 20th century

19. In ancient Borneo, tattoos were often applied to the throat and hands to signify what?

- A) Headhunting achievements**
- B) Wealth in trade
- C) Success in farming
- D) The ability to read

20. The process of scarification, which creates raised patterns on the skin, is historically practiced in many cultures throughout which continent?

- A) Europe
- B) South America
- C) Africa**
- D) Antarctica