

Milestones in Tattoo History

Tattoo History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. In what year was the first electric tattoo machine, based on Thomas Edison's autographic printer, patented by Samuel O'Reilly?

- A) 1888
- B) 1891**
- C) 1895
- D) 1902

2. Ötzi the Iceman, discovered in 1991, features how many distinct groups of tattoo marks on his body?

- A) 25
- B) 48
- C) 61**
- D) 72

3. Who is credited with opening the first professional tattoo shop in New York City in 1870?

- A) Martin Hildebrandt**
- B) Samuel O'Reilly
- C) Charlie Wagner
- D) Percy Waters

4. In which century did the Japanese government officially ban tattooing as part of the Meiji Restoration, a law that remained until 1948?

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

5. How many needles are typically used in a standard 'magnum' tattoo needle configuration?

- A) 1 to 3
- B) 5 to 13**
- C) 20 to 30
- D) 50 to 100

6. The oldest known evidence of tattooing, dating back to approximately 3370-3100 BCE, was found on a mummy from which culture?

- A) Ancient Egyptian
- B) Chinchorro
- C) Ancient Nubian

D) Egyptian-Sudanese

7. In 1970, which famous tattoo artist published the influential book 'Tattooing A to Z'?

- A) Ed Hardy
- B) Sailor Jerry Collins
- C) Cliff Raven

D) Lyle Tuttle

8. What number of tattoos did the 'Great Omi' (Horace Ridler), a famous tattooed sideshow performer, claim to have covering his body?

- A) Over 100
- B) Over 500
- C) Over 1,000

D) Over 150

9. Which US state finally legalized tattooing in 2006, ending a long-standing total ban?

A) South Carolina

- B) Massachusetts
- C) Oklahoma
- D) Arkansas

10. The word 'tattoo' was introduced into the English language by Captain James Cook following his 1769 voyage to which location?

A) Tahiti

- B) Hawaii
- C) New Zealand
- D) Fiji

11. How many ink-filled containers were found in the 1991 grave of a woman from the Pazyryk culture, providing early evidence of tattoo tools?

- A) One
- B) Two

C) Six

D) Ten

12. In 1933, which tattoo artist became the first to use an autoclave for sterilizing needles in his shop?

A) Herbert Hoffmann

B) Percy Waters

C) Milton Zeis

D) George Burchett

13. During the 19th century, how much would a high-society client typically pay 'Professor' George Burchett for a complex tattoo session?

A) 5 shillings

B) 1 pound

C) 5 to 10 guineas

D) 100 pounds

14. Which famous tattooist was known as the 'King of Tattooists' and claimed to have tattooed King George V?

A) George Burchett

B) Samuel O'Reilly

C) Charlie Wagner

D) Ben Corday

15. The first color-changing tattoo ink, which reacts to pH levels, was developed by researchers at which institution in 2017?

A) MIT

B) Harvard

C) Oxford

D) Stanford

16. Approximately what percentage of the US population aged 18-29 was estimated to have at least one tattoo in the 2010 Pew Research study?

A) 12%

B) 25%

C) 38%

D) 50%

17. Which specific ink pigment, often used for red tattoos, is most frequently associated with allergic reactions in dermatological studies?

A) Carbon Black

B) Titanium Dioxide

C) Mercuric Sulfide

D) Iron Oxide

18. In 1904, Charlie Wagner received a patent for what specific tattoo-related invention?

- A) Tattoo stencil paper**
- B) Electric tattoo machine
- C) Tattoo ink mixer
- D) Tattoo needle holder

19. How many years did Sailor Jerry (Norman Collins) serve in the US Navy before opening his famous shop in Honolulu?

- A) 5 years
- B) 10 years
- C) 15 years
- D) 20 years**

20. The 'Tattooing and Body Piercing Act' of 2002 was implemented in which country to set strict health standards?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Australia**
- C) Canada
- D) Germany

21. Which tattoo artist, active in the 1950s, is widely credited with inventing the 'tattoo flash' sheet format still used today?

- A) Sailor Jerry**
- B) Doc Webb
- C) Paul Rogers
- D) Owen Jensen

22. How deep, in millimeters, does a tattoo needle typically penetrate the epidermis into the dermis?

- A) 0.5 to 1.5 mm
- B) 2.0 to 3.0 mm**
- C) 4.0 to 5.0 mm
- D) 0.1 to 0.2 mm

23. In 1996, the first professional tattoo association, the APT, was formed in which country?

- A) USA**
- B) Japan
- C) France
- D) Netherlands

24. The 'Maori' people of New Zealand traditionally used what tool to create the 'Moko' facial tattoos?

A) Bone chisels

B) Metal needles

C) Obsidian shards

D) Copper pins

25. Which pigment is the primary component used in 'Carbon Black' tattoo ink?

A) Graphite

B) Soot

C) Iron

D) Lead