

Milestones in Literacy and Discovery

History And Science · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the invention of the earliest known writing system, known as cuneiform?

- A) Sumerians**
- B) Egyptians
- C) Phoenicians
- D) Indus Valley inhabitants

2. In the context of early communication, what was the primary material used for the 'Codex Sinaiticus', one of the oldest surviving Christian Bibles?

- A) Papyrus
- B) Parchment**
- C) Palm leaves
- D) Clay tablets

3. Who is historically credited with the first successful demonstration of the television, a invention that revolutionized visual information intake?

- A) Guglielmo Marconi
- B) Philo Farnsworth**
- C) Alexander Graham Bell
- D) Thomas Edison

4. The Gutenberg Press, which democratized reading, used a modified version of what existing technology to facilitate printing?

- A) Wine press**
- B) Blacksmith forge
- C) Water wheel
- D) Steam engine

5. What was the first metal-based movable type printing system, invented in Korea during the Goryeo Dynasty, predating Gutenberg?

- A) Jikji**
- B) Tripitaka Koreana
- C) Hangul Script
- D) Hwangnyongsa

6. Which 17th-century scientist is credited with the first published description of a microorganism, observed through a self-built microscope?

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Robert Hooke
- C) Antonie van Leeuwenhoek**
- D) Galileo Galilei

7. The Rosetta Stone, key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs, was discovered during which historical expedition?

- A) Napoleon's campaign in Egypt**
- B) The British Museum excavation of 1850
- C) Alexander the Great's conquest
- D) The excavation of the Valley of the Kings

8. What was the first successful, controlled, powered, heavier-than-air flight achieved by the Wright brothers in 1903?

- A) The Spirit of St. Louis
- B) The Flyer**
- C) The Kitty Hawk
- D) The Aeronautical One

9. Which mathematician is historically recognized for writing the first algorithm intended to be processed by a machine, effectively creating the first computer program?

- A) Alan Turing
- B) Ada Lovelace**
- C) Charles Babbage
- D) Grace Hopper

10. The first successful vaccine, developed by Edward Jenner in 1796, was created to combat which disease?

- A) Smallpox**
- B) Polio
- C) Rabies
- D) Cholera

11. What is the oldest known map of the world, created during the Neo-Babylonian period?

- A) The Imago Mundi**
- B) The Hereford Mappa Mundi
- C) The Tabula Peutingeriana
- D) The Ptolemy World Map

12. Who is credited with the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953, enabling the modern understanding of genetics?

A) Rosalind Franklin

B) James Watson and Francis Crick

C) Linus Pauling

D) Barbara McClintock

13. The first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, launched in 1957, was named what?

A) Explorer 1

B) Vostok 1

C) Sputnik 1

D) Vanguard 1

14. Which invention by Eli Whitney in 1793 dramatically increased the processing efficiency of a specific agricultural commodity?

A) The seed drill

B) The cotton gin

C) The mechanical reaper

D) The steam plow

15. The 'Dead Sea Scrolls', discovered between 1946 and 1956, contain the oldest known manuscripts of which religious texts?

A) The Quran

B) The Hebrew Bible

C) The Vedas

D) The Pali Canon

16. What was the first commercial computer produced in the United States, delivered to the U.S. Census Bureau in 1951?

A) ENIAC

B) UNIVAC I

C) EDVAC

D) IBM 701

17. In 1895, Wilhelm Röntgen discovered a type of radiation that allowed for the first internal medical imaging; what is it called?

A) Gamma rays

B) X-rays

C) Infrared light

D) Ultraviolet radiation

18. The first successful transatlantic telegraph cable, completed in 1866, connected which two locations?

A) New York and London

B) Valentia Island and Heart's Content

C) Paris and Boston

D) Lisbon and Halifax

19. What chemical element was the first to be discovered using spectroscopy, identified in the Sun's spectrum in 1868?

A) Helium

B) Neon

C) Argon

D) Hydrogen

20. Which explorer led the first expedition to reach the South Pole in 1911?

A) Robert Falcon Scott

B) Ernest Shackleton

C) Roald Amundsen

D) Richard E. Byrd