

Milestones in Literacy and Discovery

History And Science · Practice Test · 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