

Magic & Illusion History

History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which famous magician was best known for his incredible escape acts from handcuffs, ropes, and water-filled tanks?

- A) Harry Houdini**
- B) David Copperfield
- C) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin
- D) Howard Thurston

2. Who is often called the 'Father of Modern Magic' for bringing performances into formal theaters and wearing modern suits instead of robes?

- A) P. T. Barnum
- B) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin**
- C) Harry Kellar
- D) Harry Houdini

3. What is the name of the famous 19th-century optical illusion that uses glass and light to make transparent ghostly figures appear on stage?

- A) Mirage Mirror
- B) Pepper's Ghost**
- C) Shadow Box
- D) Camera Obscura

4. Which classic trick, where small objects disappear and move between three upside-down containers, is considered one of the oldest in history?

- A) The Sawing Trick
- B) The Linking Rings
- C) The Cups and Balls**
- D) The Card Trick

5. In 1921, English magician P. T. Selbit became the first person to publicly perform which famous stage illusion?

- A) Levitating a person
- B) Making an elephant disappear
- C) Sawing a person in half**
- D) Catching a bullet

6. The earliest known written record of a magic performance comes from an ancient papyrus scroll from which country?

- A) Ancient Greece
- B) Ancient Egypt**
- C) Ancient China
- D) Ancient Rome

7. Known as the 'Queen of Magic,' which famous female magician performed dangerous feats in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

- A) Adelaide Herrmann**
- B) Marie Curie
- C) Bessie Coleman
- D) Annie Oakley

8. In 1983, magician David Copperfield amazed millions of television viewers by making which famous landmark seemingly disappear?

- A) The Eiffel Tower
- B) The Statue of Liberty**
- C) Big Ben
- D) The Sydney Opera House

9. What type of complex mechanical clockwork figures were popular in 18th and 19th-century magic shows to imitate living creatures?

- A) Automata**
- B) Robots
- C) Androids
- D) Holograms

10. What is the classic magic trick where several solid metal loops appear to magically intertwine and separate?

- A) The Silver Chains
- B) The Linking Rings**
- C) The Endless Rope
- D) The Magic Hoops