

Ancient History Trivia

Pyramids, gladiators, and empires. Twenty questions about the ancient civilizations that built th...

Name / Team:

Score:

1 What ancient civilization built the Great Pyramids at Giza?

- A. The Babylonians
- B. The Romans
- C. The Egyptians
- D. The Persians

2 What ancient city-state is considered the birthplace of democracy?

- A. Sparta
- B. Athens
- C. Rome
- D. Corinth

3 What river was essential to the development of ancient Egyptian civilization?

- A. The Tigris
- B. The Euphrates
- C. The Nile
- D. The Indus

4 Who was the famous Macedonian king who conquered an empire stretching from Greece to India?

- A. Julius Caesar
- B. Alexander the Great
- C. Xerxes
- D. Hannibal

5 What was the name of the arena in Rome where gladiators fought?

- A. The Parthenon
- B. The Colosseum
- C. The Pantheon
- D. The Forum

6 What writing system did the ancient Egyptians use?

- A. Cuneiform
- B. Hieroglyphics
- C. Runes
- D. Sanskrit

7 Which ancient civilization is credited with inventing the wheel and writing?

- A. The Egyptians
- B. The Chinese
- C. The Sumerians (Mesopotamia)
- D. The Greeks

8 Who was the first emperor of Rome?

- A. Julius Caesar
- B. Augustus (Octavian)
- C. Nero
- D. Tiberius

9 What ancient wonder was a giant bronze statue on the island of Rhodes?

- A. The Lighthouse of Alexandria
- B. The Colossus of Rhodes
- C. The Statue of Zeus
- D. The Temple of Artemis

10 What was the famous trade route connecting China to the Mediterranean called?

- A. The Spice Route
- B. The Silk Road
- C. The Tea Trail
- D. The Gold Road

11 Which Greek philosopher taught Alexander the Great?

- A. Socrates
- B. Plato
- C. Aristotle
- D. Pythagoras

12 What was the last pharaoh of ancient Egypt?

- A. Nefertiti
- B. Hatshepsut
- C. Cleopatra VII
- D. Ramesses II

Ancient History Trivia

(continued)

13 What Greek city-state was famous for its powerful military and warrior culture?

- A. Athens
- B. Corinth
- C. Sparta
- D. Thebes

14 What Carthaginian general famously crossed the Alps with elephants to attack Rome?

- A. Scipio
- B. Hannibal
- C. Hamilcar
- D. Hasdrubal

15 What was the primary building material used for the Great Wall of China?

- A. Marble
- B. Wood
- C. Stone, brick, and rammed earth
- D. Bronze

16 What Roman leader was assassinated on the Ides of March (March 15) in 44 BC?

- A. Augustus
- B. Nero
- C. Julius Caesar
- D. Pompey

17 What ancient code of law is one of the oldest written legal codes in history?

- A. Roman Law
- B. The Ten Commandments
- C. The Code of Hammurabi
- D. Justinian's Code

18 What natural disaster buried the Roman city of Pompeii in 79 AD?

- A. An earthquake
- B. A flood
- C. A volcanic eruption
- D. A tsunami

19 What material did the ancient Chinese invent that revolutionized writing and record-keeping?

- A. Parchment
- B. Papyrus
- C. Paper
- D. Vellum

20 What massive library in Egypt was the largest in the ancient world?

- A. The Library of Pergamum
- B. The Library of Alexandria
- C. The Library of Athens
- D. The Library of Rome

Ancient History Trivia — Answer Key

1. C The Egyptians

The Great Pyramids were built during Egypt's Old Kingdom, around 2580-2560 BC. The Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the

2. B Athens

Athens introduced demokratia (rule by the people) in the 5th century BC under the leadership of Cleisthenes, allowing male citizens to vote directly on laws.

3. C The Nile

The Nile's annual flooding deposited rich silt along its banks, creating fertile farmland in the middle of the Sahara Desert. Egypt was called 'the gift of the Nile.'

4. B Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire and reached as far as India by age 30. He died in Babylon in 323 BC at age 32.

5. B The Colosseum

The Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheatre) was completed in 80 AD and could hold up to 50,000 spectators. It hosted gladiator contests, animal hunts, and public spectacles.

6. B Hieroglyphics

Egyptian hieroglyphics used pictures and symbols to represent words and sounds. The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, was the key to deciphering them.

7. C The Sumerians (Mesopotamia)

The Sumerians of Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) invented both the wheel and cuneiform writing around 3500-3000 BC. They also built the first cities.

8. B Augustus (Octavian)

Augustus (born Octavian) became the first Roman Emperor in 27 BC after defeating Mark Antony and Cleopatra. Julius Caesar was a dictator but never officially emperor.

9. B The Colossus of Rhodes

The Colossus of Rhodes was a statue of the sun god Helios, about 108 feet tall. Built around 280 BC, it stood for only 54 years before an earthquake toppled it.

10. B The Silk Road

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes connecting East Asia to the Mediterranean. It carried silk, spices, ideas, and religions across thousands of miles for over 1,500 years.

11. C Aristotle

Aristotle tutored the young Alexander from age 13 to 16. Aristotle was himself a student of Plato, who was a student of Socrates.

12. C Cleopatra VII

Cleopatra VII ruled Egypt from 51 to 30 BC. After her death, Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire, ending over 3,000 years of pharaonic rule.

13. C Sparta

Sparta's entire society was organized around military training. Spartan boys began military training at age 7. The Battle of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans held off the Persian army,

14. B Hannibal

Hannibal Barca crossed the Alps with war elephants in 218 BC during the Second Punic War. He won several battles in Italy but never captured Rome itself.

15. C Stone, brick, and rammed earth

The Great Wall was built with various materials over centuries. Early sections used rammed earth and wood, while later Ming Dynasty sections used stone and brick.

16. C Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar was stabbed by a group of senators including Brutus and Cassius who feared he was becoming too powerful. His assassination plunged Rome into civil war.

17. C The Code of Hammurabi

The Code of Hammurabi was created by the Babylonian king Hammurabi around 1750 BC. It contains 282 laws carved into a stone pillar and established the principle of 'an eye for an eye.'

18. C A volcanic eruption

Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried Pompeii under volcanic ash and pumice. The city was preserved almost perfectly and rediscovered in 1748, providing an extraordinary snapshot of

19. C Paper

Paper was invented in China around 105 AD by Cai Lun during the Han Dynasty. It eventually replaced bamboo strips and silk as the primary writing material.

20. B The Library of Alexandria

The Library of Alexandria in Egypt was the greatest library of the ancient world, reportedly containing hundreds of thousands of scrolls. Its destruction is one of history's great losses.