

World History Trivia

From ancient empires to modern revolutions, twenty questions that span the full sweep of human hi...

Name / Team:

Score:

1 Which ancient civilization built the Great Pyramids at Giza?

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

2 The Roman Empire fell in which century?

- A. 3rd century AD
- B. 5th century AD
- C. 7th century AD
- D. 1st century AD

3 Which explorer is credited with the first European voyage to reach India by sea?

- A. Christopher Columbus
- B. Ferdinand Magellan
- C. Vasco da Gama
- D. Marco Polo

4 The French Revolution began in which year?

- A. 1776
- B. 1789
- C. 1804
- D. 1815

5 Which empire was ruled by Genghis Khan in the 13th century?

- A. The Ottoman Empire
- B. The Mongol Empire
- C. The Byzantine Empire
- D. The Mughal Empire

6 What was the name of the trade route that connected China to the Mediterranean?

- A. The Spice Route
- B. The King's Highway
- C. The Silk Road
- D. The Amber Road

7 The Magna Carta was signed in England in which year?

- A. 1066
- B. 1215
- C. 1348
- D. 1492

8 Which African empire was known for its wealth and the city of Timbuktu as a center of learning?

- A. The Zulu Empire
- B. The Songhai Empire
- C. The Mali Empire
- D. The Kingdom of Kush

9 The Black Death pandemic of the 14th century killed approximately what fraction of Europe's population?

- A. One tenth
- B. One quarter
- C. One third
- D. One half

10 Which country was the first to begin the Industrial Revolution?

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. United States
- D. Great Britain

11 The Ottoman Empire was centered in which modern-day country?

- A. Iran
- B. Egypt
- C. Turkey
- D. Iraq

World History Trivia

(continued)

12 Which event is generally considered the starting point of World War I?

- A. The sinking of the Lusitania
- B. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- C. Germany's invasion of Poland
- D. The Russian Revolution

13 Mahatma Gandhi led the independence movement in which country?

- A. South Africa
- B. Pakistan
- C. India
- D. Egypt

14 The Berlin Wall fell in which year?

- A. 1985
- B. 1987
- C. 1989
- D. 1991

15 Which ancient Greek city-state was known for its military discipline and warrior culture?

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

16 The Meiji Restoration of 1868 transformed which country from a feudal society into a modern industrial state?

- A. China
- B. Korea
- C. Japan
- D. Thailand

17 Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for how many years before his release in 1990?

- A. 15 years
- B. 20 years
- C. 27 years
- D. 31 years

18 The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 took place in which country?

- A. Germany
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. France

19 Which civilization built Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains of South America?

- A. The Maya
- B. The Aztecs
- C. The Inca
- D. The Olmec

20 The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, was signed in which year?

- A. 1917
- B. 1918
- C. 1919
- D. 1920

World History Trivia — Answer Key

1. B The Egyptians

The Great Pyramids were built during Egypt's Old Kingdom period, roughly 2580–2560 BC, as tombs for the pharaohs.

2. B 5th century AD

The Western Roman Empire fell in 476 AD when the last emperor, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed by the Germanic chieftain Odoacer.

3. C Vasco da Gama

Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama reached Calicut, India in 1498 by sailing around the southern tip of Africa.

4. B 1789

The French Revolution began in 1789 with the storming of the Bastille on July 14, leading to the overthrow of the monarchy.

5. B The Mongol Empire

Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire around 1206, which became the largest contiguous land empire in history.

6. C The Silk Road

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes connecting East Asia to the Mediterranean, active for roughly 1,500 years.

7. B 1215

King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215 at Runnymede. It established the principle that the king was subject to law.

8. C The Mali Empire

The Mali Empire flourished in West Africa from the 13th to 16th centuries. Its ruler Mansa Musa is often cited as the wealthiest person in history.

9. C One third

The Black Death (1347–1351) killed an estimated 25 to 30 million people in Europe, roughly one third of the continent's population.

10. D Great Britain

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain in the mid-1700s, driven by innovations in textile manufacturing, steam power, and iron production.

11. C Turkey

The Ottoman Empire was based in Constantinople (modern Istanbul, Turkey) and lasted from 1299 to 1922.

12. B The assassination of Archduke Franz F...

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914 triggered the alliance system that led to World War I.

13. C India

Gandhi led India's nonviolent independence movement against British colonial rule, achieving independence in 1947.

14. C 1989

The Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989, leading to German reunification the following year and symbolizing the end of the Cold War.

15. C Sparta

Sparta's entire society was organized around military training and readiness. Boys began military education at age seven.

16. C Japan

The Meiji Restoration ended the rule of the Tokugawa shogunate and restored imperial rule, launching Japan's rapid modernization.

17. C 27 years

Mandela was imprisoned from 1962 to 1990, spending 27 years in prison for his opposition to apartheid in South Africa.

18. C Russia

The Bolshevik Revolution in October 1917 overthrew the Russian Provisional Government and established the Soviet state under Lenin.

19. C The Inca

Machu Picchu was built around 1450 AD by the Inca Empire as an estate for Emperor Pachacuti, high in the Peruvian Andes.

20. C 1919

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, exactly five years after the assassination that started the war.