

60 History Trivia Questions for Kids

Ancient Egypt, Rome, American history and the World Wars, with answers.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ancient Egypt

1. What did ancient Egyptians call their kings?

2. What are the large stone structures with triangular sides that ancient Egyptians built as tombs?

3. What is the name of the famous Egyptian statue with a human head and a lion's body?

4. What was the ancient Egyptian writing system called, using pictures and symbols?

5. What river, the longest in the world, runs through Egypt and made farming possible in the desert?

6. What was the process called where ancient Egyptians preserved bodies after death?

7. What was the name of the Egyptian sun god?

8. In which decade was the famous tomb of Tutankhamun (King Tut) discovered?

9. What was written on the Rosetta Stone that helped experts decode hieroglyphics?

10. What did ancient Egyptians use to write on — a plant that grew along the Nile?

Ancient Greece & Rome

11. What city-state is known as the birthplace of democracy?

12. What giant wooden horse did the Greeks use to sneak soldiers into the city of Troy?

13. Who was the first emperor of Rome?

14. What was the large oval arena in Rome where gladiators fought called?

15. In which country were the original Olympic Games held?

16. Who was the Greek god of the sea?

17. What is the name of the Greek philosopher who taught Plato, and was sentenced to death for "corrupting the youth"?

18. What famous structure sits on the Acropolis hill in Athens?

19. Julius Caesar was famously assassinated on which date in 44 BC?

20. What do we call the roads the Romans built that stretched across their empire?

Explorers & Discoveries

21. Who is credited with "discovering" the Americas in 1492?

22. Who was the first person to sail all the way around the world?

23. What did Galileo Galilei discover about the solar system that the Church disagreed with?

24. Who was the first person to climb Mount Everest?

25. What explorer led the first expedition to the South Pole?

26. Isaac Newton is famous for discovering what force when an apple fell from a tree?

27. Who invented the telephone?

28. What did Marie Curie become the first woman to do in 1903?

29. In what year did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin first walk on the Moon?

30. Who wrote the theory of relativity?

American History

31. In what year did America declare independence from Britain?

32. Who was the first president of the United States?

33. What war was fought between the Northern and Southern states of America from 1861 to 1865?

34. Who was president when slavery was abolished in America?

35. What document is the supreme law of the United States?

36. Who led peaceful protests for civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s?

37. What was Rosa Parks famous for refusing to do in 1955?

38. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean?

39. What event triggered the United States to enter World War II?

40. Who was the 16th president of the United States?

The World Wars

41. In what year did World War I begin?

42. In what year did World War II end?

43. Who was the leader of Nazi Germany during World War II?

44. What was the name of the large military operation on June 6, 1944, when Allied forces landed in northern France?

45. What two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in 1945?

46. What was the name of the passenger ship sunk by a German submarine in 1915?

47. What organisation was formed after World War II to promote peace among nations?

48. What was the Holocaust?

49. Who was Winston Churchill?

50. What treaty formally ended World War I?

Inventions & Firsts

51. Who invented the light bulb?

52. What did the Wright Brothers invent?

53. Who invented the printing press, which made books widely available for the first time?

54. What was the first country to put a satellite into space?

55. Who invented the World Wide Web in 1989?

56. What ancient Chinese invention used for navigation pointed toward magnetic north?

57. What disease did Edward Jenner develop the first vaccine against in 1796?

58. Who built the first Ford Model T car, making cars affordable for ordinary people?

59. In which city was the first subway (underground railway) system in the world opened?

60. What ancient tool, invented over 5,000 years ago, is still used in construction today?

Answer Key

Ancient Egypt

1. What did ancient Egyptians call their kings? - Pharaohs.
2. What are the large stone structures with triangular sides that ancient Egyptians built as tombs? - Pyramids.
3. What is the name of the famous Egyptian statue with a human head and a lion's body? - The Sphinx (the Great Sphinx of Giza).
4. What was the ancient Egyptian writing system called, using pictures and symbols? - Hieroglyphics.
5. What river, the longest in the world, runs through Egypt and made farming possible in the desert? - The Nile.
6. What was the process called where ancient Egyptians preserved bodies after death? - Mummification — the preserved body was called a mummy.
7. What was the name of the Egyptian sun god? - Ra (also written as Re).
8. In which decade was the famous tomb of Tutankhamun (King Tut) discovered? - The 1920s — Howard Carter found it in 1922.
9. What was written on the Rosetta Stone that helped experts decode hieroglyphics? - The same message in three scripts: hieroglyphics, Demotic, and ancient Greek — comparing the three helped decode hieroglyphics.
10. What did ancient Egyptians use to write on — a plant that grew along the Nile? - Papyrus — one of the world's earliest forms of paper.

Ancient Greece & Rome

11. What city-state is known as the birthplace of democracy? - Athens, Greece.
12. What giant wooden horse did the Greeks use to sneak soldiers into the city of Troy? - The Trojan Horse.
13. Who was the first emperor of Rome? - Augustus Caesar (also known as Octavian), who became emperor in 27 BC.
14. What was the large oval arena in Rome where gladiators fought called? - The Colosseum.
15. In which country were the original Olympic Games held? - Ancient Greece — the first recorded Games were in Olympia in 776 BC.
16. Who was the Greek god of the sea? - Poseidon (his Roman equivalent was Neptune).
17. What is the name of the Greek philosopher who taught Plato, and was sentenced to death for "corrupting the youth"? - Socrates.
18. What famous structure sits on the Acropolis hill in Athens? - The Parthenon — a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena.
19. Julius Caesar was famously assassinated on which date in 44 BC? - The Ides of March — March 15, 44 BC.

20. What do we call the roads the Romans built that stretched across their empire? - Roman roads — the most famous saying is "All roads lead to Rome."

Explorers & Discoveries

21. Who is credited with "discovering" the Americas in 1492? - Christopher Columbus — though Indigenous peoples had lived there for thousands of years.
22. Who was the first person to sail all the way around the world? - Ferdinand Magellan's expedition was first (1519–1522), though Magellan himself died before completing it; his crew finished the journey.
23. What did Galileo Galilei discover about the solar system that the Church disagreed with? - That the Earth orbits the Sun (heliocentrism), not the other way around.
24. Who was the first person to climb Mount Everest? - Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit on May 29, 1953.
25. What explorer led the first expedition to the South Pole? - Roald Amundsen of Norway (December 1911).
26. Isaac Newton is famous for discovering what force when an apple fell from a tree? - Gravity.
27. Who invented the telephone? - Alexander Graham Bell is credited with the first practical telephone, patented in 1876.
28. What did Marie Curie become the first woman to do in 1903? - Win a Nobel Prize — she won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 and later a second in Chemistry in 1911.
29. In what year did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin first walk on the Moon? - 1969 — the Apollo 11 mission landed on July 20, 1969.
30. Who wrote the theory of relativity? - Albert Einstein — his special theory of relativity was published in 1905.

American History

31. In what year did America declare independence from Britain? - 1776 — the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776.
32. Who was the first president of the United States? - George Washington.
33. What war was fought between the Northern and Southern states of America from 1861 to 1865? - The American Civil War.
34. Who was president when slavery was abolished in America? - Abraham Lincoln — the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863.
35. What document is the supreme law of the United States? - The Constitution of the United States.
36. Who led peaceful protests for civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s? - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
37. What was Rosa Parks famous for refusing to do in 1955? - Give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white passenger — her arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
38. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean? - Amelia Earhart, in 1932.

39. What event triggered the United States to enter World War II? - The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

40. Who was the 16th president of the United States? - Abraham Lincoln.

The World Wars

41. In what year did World War I begin? - 1914.

42. In what year did World War II end? - 1945.

43. Who was the leader of Nazi Germany during World War II? - Adolf Hitler.

44. What was the name of the large military operation on June 6, 1944, when Allied forces landed in northern France? - D-Day (the Normandy landings, or Operation Overlord).

45. What two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in 1945? - One on Hiroshima (August 6) and one on Nagasaki (August 9).

46. What was the name of the passenger ship sunk by a German submarine in 1915? - The RMS Lusitania — its sinking helped shift US opinion toward entering WWI.

47. What organisation was formed after World War II to promote peace among nations? - The United Nations (UN), founded in 1945.

48. What was the Holocaust? - The systematic murder of approximately six million Jewish people (and millions of others) by the Nazi regime during World War II.

49. Who was Winston Churchill? - The Prime Minister of Great Britain during most of World War II, known for his powerful speeches and leadership during the Battle of Britain.

50. What treaty formally ended World War I? - The Treaty of Versailles (signed in 1919).

Inventions & Firsts

51. Who invented the light bulb? - Thomas Edison is credited with developing a practical incandescent light bulb in 1879.

52. What did the Wright Brothers invent? - The first successful powered airplane — their first flight was at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on December 17, 1903.

53. Who invented the printing press, which made books widely available for the first time? - Johannes Gutenberg, around 1440 in Germany.

54. What was the first country to put a satellite into space? - The Soviet Union (USSR) — Sputnik 1 launched on October 4, 1957.

55. Who invented the World Wide Web in 1989? - Tim Berners-Lee, a British scientist working at CERN in Switzerland.

56. What ancient Chinese invention used for navigation pointed toward magnetic north? - The compass — invented in China around 200 BC.

57. What disease did Edward Jenner develop the first vaccine against in 1796? - Smallpox — making his the first vaccine ever developed.

58. Who built the first Ford Model T car, making cars affordable for ordinary people? - Henry Ford — the Model T went on sale in 1908.

59. In which city was the first subway (underground railway) system in the world opened? - London, England — the Metropolitan Railway opened in 1863.

60. What ancient tool, invented over 5,000 years ago, is still used in construction today? - The wheel — invented in Mesopotamia around 3500 BC.