

Ancient Civilizations Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Ancient Civilizations trivia explores the people, ideas, and achievements of societies such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, China, Greece, and Rome. From pyramids and cuneiform to mythology, trade, and military power, these questions offer a lively way to revisit the cultures that shaped early human history.

HARD ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. Which Chinese dynasty took power immediately after the short-lived Qin dynasty?

Answer: Han dynasty

2. In a Chinese dynastic sequence, the brief Qin is followed by what dynasty?

Answer: Han dynasty

3. True or false: The Han dynasty came before the Qin dynasty.?

Answer: False

4. Which era opens immediately after 323 BCE, following Alexander the Great's death?

Answer: Hellenistic period

5. If Alexander the Great exits the stage in 323 BCE, what period takes the historical spotlight next?

Answer: Hellenistic period

6. What term names the broad shift from hunting and gathering to agriculture in many regions?

Answer: Neolithic Revolution

7. Which major transformation is defined by the move toward agriculture rather than a hunting-and-gathering way of life?

Answer: Neolithic Revolution

8. Before emperors ruled Rome, which political era came first?

Answer: Roman Republic

9. Which Roman state form directly preceded the Roman Empire?

Answer: Roman Republic

10. True or false: The Roman Empire came before the Roman Republic.?

Answer: False

11. Which Babylonian legal text is carved on a basalt stele?

Answer: Code of Hammurabi

12. Name the ancient Babylonian inscription known specifically for being set on a basalt stele.?

Answer: Code of Hammurabi

13. What Mesopotamian literary work survives on cuneiform tablets?

Answer: Epic of Gilgamesh

14. On which famous artifact does the same decree appear in hieroglyphic, Demotic, and Greek?

Answer: Rosetta Stone

FUNNY ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. Which fifth-century ruler of the Huns sounds like he would absolutely ignore your city walls and your RSVP?

Answer: Attila

2. Who led an uprising against Roman rule in Britain, proving that some complaints cannot be handled by customer service?

Answer: Boudica

3. Which Chinese teacher and thinker had ideas that shaped later East Asian traditions, basically becoming history's most influential homework assignment?

Answer: Confucius

4. If your travel brochure promised a major Maya archaeological site in the Yucatán Peninsula, where are you going?

Answer: Chichén Itzá

5. Where in Greece would you go if you wanted Apollo's oracle and were willing to accept mysteriously poetic customer support?

Answer: Delphi

6. Which city served as an early capital of ancient Egypt, long before modern capitals started arguing about parking?

Answer: Memphis

7. Which city had the worst possible real-estate surprise when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE?

Answer: Pompeii

8. Which major Sumerian city stood in southern Mesopotamia, quietly collecting 'very old city' bragging rights?

Answer: Ur

9. Which historical figure is linked specifically to Britain challenging Roman rule, not to Huns or Chinese teaching: Boudica, Attila, or Confucius?

Answer: Boudica

10. If someone says, 'My ideas shaped later East Asian traditions,' which ancient thinker gets to raise a very calm eyebrow?

Answer: Confucius

11. Which place belongs with the Maya and the Yucatán Peninsula, not with Greece, Egypt, or Mesopotamia?

Answer: Chichén Itzá

12. Which Greek site offered both a sanctuary and a famous oracle of Apollo, making it ancient Greece's closest thing to a divine advice desk?

Answer: Delphi

13. Name the city that served as an early capital of ancient Egypt before anyone had a chance to invent a 'best capital city' listicle.?

Answer: Memphis

FUN ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. Which ruler gets the 'first emperor of a unified China' headline?

Answer: Qin Shi Huang

2. The Great Pyramid and the Great Sphinx are neighbors on which plateau?

Answer: Giza

3. If you were visiting a major urban center of the Indus Valley Civilization, which site would your ancient map point to?

Answer: Mohenjo-daro

4. Which city served as a ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire?

Answer: Persepolis

5. What was the rock-cut capital of the Nabataean Kingdom?

Answer: Petra

6. Which ancient city in central Mexico is famous for the Pyramid of the Sun?

Answer: Teotihuacan

7. Which major Maya city stood in what is now Guatemala?

Answer: Tikal

8. Pick the site that matches this clue: 'ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire.'?

Answer: Persepolis

9. Which place would win an 'Ancient Cities Carved Into Rock' contest by being the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom?

Answer: Petra

10. If someone says 'Pyramid of the Sun,' which central Mexican city should pop into your head first?

Answer: Teotihuacan

11. Which location is linked with both the Great Pyramid and the Great Sphinx?

Answer: Giza

12. Which answer fits this clue exactly: a major Maya city in what is now Guatemala?

Answer: Tikal

13. Which site is in southeastern Africa rather than Guatemala, and is described as stone-built?

Answer: Great Zimbabwe

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which Mauryan ruler is remembered for edicts carved on pillars and rocks across South Asia?

Answer: Ashoka

2. Who became Rome's first emperor after the fall of the Republic?

Answer: Augustus

3. Which leader founded the Achaemenid Persian Empire?

Answer: Cyrus the Great

4. The famous law code linked with Babylon is most closely associated with which ruler?

Answer: Hammurabi

5. Which Carthaginian commander is famous for crossing the Alps during war with Rome?

Answer: Hannibal

6. Who was the female pharaoh of ancient Egypt's Eighteenth Dynasty?

Answer: Hatshepsut

7. At Thermopylae, which Spartan king led Greek forces?

Answer: Leonidas I

8. On which island are the visions of Revelation linked?

Answer: Patmos

9. Multiple choice: Which ruler left messages carved on pillars and rocks across South Asia?

Answer: Ashoka

10. After the Roman Republic fell, who stepped into history as the first emperor of Rome?

Answer: Augustus

11. If you were naming the founder of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, which ancient ruler would you choose?

Answer: Cyrus the Great

12. Which Babylonian ruler is the one most closely tied to a famous code of laws?

Answer: Hammurabi

EASY ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TRIVIA

1. In the Roman Republic, how many consuls were elected each year as chief magistrates?

Answer: Two consuls

2. What was the title of the annually elected chief magistrate in the Roman Republic?

Answer: Consul

3. True or false: The Roman Republic elected two consuls every year.?

Answer: True

4. Which ancient writing system was pressed into clay using a reed stylus?

Answer: Cuneiform

5. What tool was used to make cuneiform marks in clay?

Answer: A reed stylus

6. If a student in ancient Mesopotamia was poking wedges into clay, what writing system were they likely using?

Answer: Cuneiform

7. Which writing system is especially associated with ancient Egyptian monumental and religious inscriptions?

Answer: Hieroglyphs

8. True or false: Hieroglyphs were used in ancient Egyptian monumental and religious inscriptions.?

Answer: True

9. What is the name of the ancient Egyptian funerary process used extensively to preserve the dead?

Answer: Mummification

10. In ancient Egypt, the extensive funerary process of preserving bodies is called what?

Answer: Mummification

11. Which term refers to a long period of relative stability in the Roman Empire?

Answer: Pax Romana

12. What Latin phrase names the Roman Empire's long stretch of relative stability?

Answer: Pax Romana

13. In the Greek world, what was an independent city-state called?

Answer: Polis

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/ancient-civilizations>