

Answers to quiz



1. During the first millennium BCE, three major empires influenced the Middle East: the **Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian** empires.
2. **Cuneiform, developed by the Sumerians**, is the world's oldest known writing system that can be deciphered. It received its wedge-like appearance around 2600 BCE when Sumerian scribes started impressing the marks on clay tablets using a reed stylus (Latin: cuneus). Cuneiform was used to write various languages, such as Sumerian, Akkadian, and Ancient Persian.
3. The ancient Middle East was a cradle of agriculture, large empires, cities, sciences, arts, mathematics, astronomy, and early writing systems. For instance, the division of an hour into 60 minutes and a circle into 360 degrees originated from Babylon.
4. **Yes**, Enheduanna (c. 2285–2250 BCE) is considered the first known historical author and poet.
5. The provenance of objects refers to the precise **origin information and the chain of ownership of a museum artifact**. This information is essential for verifying an object's authenticity. Knowledge of the findspot aids in studying the object and enhances its scientific value. Especially in the case of artifacts from the era of Western colonialism, it is crucial to ensure that they were ethically acquired from legal owners. Unfortunately, the high demand for ancient artifacts, such as clay tablets with cuneiform script, coins, and sculptures, in the antiquities market increases the looting of archaeological finds in the Middle East.
6. Statements **B and C** are true. One of the objects sent to Finland by Wallin during his expeditions was a burial coffin originating from ancient Egypt, which Wallin acquired in Cairo in 1848. The coffin belonged to a Karnak temple official named Ankhefenamun. During the long journey, Ankhefenamun's mummy disappeared, and the empty coffin

arrived in the collections of the Imperial Alexander University of Helsinki only in 1860. Later, the university collections were merged into the National Museum's collections.

7. Cultural heritage consists of inherited material and immaterial things or practices that reflect people's values, beliefs, knowledge, and traditions. Cultural heritage is not static but rather a process that involves different values and meanings at different times and their transmission over time. Cultural heritage always represents conscious choices: things remembered or forgotten, included or excluded. Factors affecting the preservation and, conversely, the destruction of cultural heritage include human activities (including wars) and environmental factors. It can be protected by developing new technological innovations, increasing awareness through education, engaging communities, enacting laws, and promoting ethical tourism.
8. **Yes**, behind the epic hero Gilgamesh, there is a real person who was a Sumerian king ruling the city of Uruk sometime between 2800 and 2600 BCE.
9. Interest in studying the ancient Middle East spread when ancient writing systems, such as cuneiform and hieroglyphics, began to be deciphered in the mid-1800s. Museology and archaeology started to develop as sciences, but from a Western perspective. The city of Nineveh intrigued scholars, especially because it is frequently mentioned in the Bible.
10. Georg August Wallin > Egyptomania
 - Harri Holma > Nebuchadnezzar's clay cylinder
 - Karl Fredrik Eneberg > Dream of excavations in Nineveh
 - Hilma Granqvist > Participatory observation
 - Aleksi Sahala > Digitization of cuneiform texts