

HISTORY OF TATTOOING

Read the text and fill in the blanks with an appropriate word.

Tattoos, (1) _____ some people call "body art", have become more and more popular in recent years. In (2) _____ of the pain caused by having a needle make hundreds of holes in their skin, millions of people (3) _____ vary widely in age and background are nowadays having their bodies decorated with ink in all kinds of ways.

Many of today's young people, (4) _____ parents were the first generation to experiment with tattoos, see it as a way of expressing their individuality, and in (5) _____ to do this, they are constantly looking for new styles and designs. (6) _____ to this increasing demand, tattoo studios have appeared in many towns and villages.

(7) _____ people tend to think of it as a modern practice, tattooing has in fact been around for a long time. There is evidence of tattoos being worn in Siberia over 4,000 years ago, as (8) _____ as in Ancient Egypt at that time, and it is thought to have existed in Japan 10,000 years ago. Even (9) _____, it was not until the late 18th century, (10) _____ Captain James Cook sailed to Polynesia, that Europeans took an interest.

It was on the island of Tahiti, (11) _____ tattooing had an important role in society, that Cook and his crew first saw tattooed men and women, and (12) _____ of that, the English word from the Tahitian word *tatau*. Ever since then, sailors have had tattoos done, often (13) _____ show the distant places they have visited.

