

# Toilet Paper

**Read the article below and then answer the questions.**

In ancient Roman times, there was no toilet paper. Instead, people used a sponge on a stick that was kept in salt water when not being used. If the Romans were travelling, they would carry cloth with them. Later, in medieval times, the wealthier people used scraps of blanket fabric.

In Asia, many Hindu and Muslim people used their left hands, washing the hands later in a bowl of water. Because of this practice, many of these people consider the left hand unclean and never eat with the left hand. A criminal may have his right hand cut off as punishment for a crime. This means that the criminal may never eat in the company of friends again in a polite manner.

It was the inventive Americans in 1857 who invented the first toilet paper. Gayety's Medicated Paper sold in packs of 500 sheets of shiny paper in New Jersey USA. Also in England in 1880, the Perforated Paper Company sold paper for the original purpose of stopping bleeding after a shave with a cut-throat shaver. Meanwhile, people who could not afford anything special used old newspaper.

The first toilet paper made with a brand name was in 1899 by a company now known as Bowater-Scott. The first soft toilet paper was made in England in 1932 by a Jewish company, Andrex, escaping from Nazi Germany. However, sales were not very good until the end of World War 2.

**Select the most correct meaning for each underlined word:**

1. fabric  
\*fibre  
\*material  
\*clothing

5. original  
\*last  
\*first  
\*main

2. criminal  
\*prisoner  
\*person who commits crime  
\*bad person

6. purpose  
\*function  
\*dolphin  
\*material

3. polite  
\*happy  
\*cheerful  
\*well-mannered

7. medicated  
\*used by doctor  
\*not for writing  
\*for medical reason

4. inventive  
\*creative  
\*old-fashioned  
\*not new

8. perforated  
\*with holes to tear  
\*worn  
\*dirty

***Answer these questions about the article.***

9. What is the name given to people of ancient Rome? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did they use instead of toilet paper? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What did rich medieval people use? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Do Hindu and Muslim people eat with the left hand? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why is it a terrible punishment for some criminals in Asia to have their right hands cut off? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. What is a cut-throat shaver like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. When did the first soft toilet paper become very popular? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_