

# TATTOO

## FACT SHEETS

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### What is a Tattoo?

A tattoo is a colored mark or figure that is permanently etched into the skin. There are records of people getting tattoos since before recorded history—the oldest record of a tattoo dates back about 5,300 years ago from a mummified man who had multiple tattoos over his body.

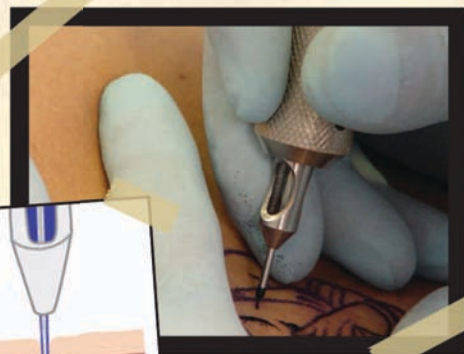
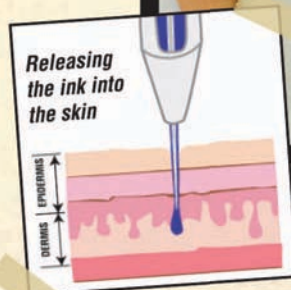
Tattoo culture has come a long way since our early ancestors marked their bodies, but the reasons people get a tattoo are probably the same—to mark or signify a group or event or simply to beautify the body.



Maori Tribal Patterns

### The mechanical part of the tattoo

A tattoo machine is used that pricks or lightly pierces the skin. The needle is a certain length so it goes through the upper level (epidermis) down to the lower level (dermis) of the skin where the ink is released. A commercial needle is either dipped in a separate ink pot or a separate color tube is used. The process of the machine injecting the ink is done with very fast repeated small injections.



### After Care

After the tattoo is completed the tattoo artist will provide written and verbal information about after-tattoo care to prevent any scarring or infections. During the initial healing period the skin will shed the outer layers and heal, leaving the tattoo as a permanent part of the skin.

\*Since the skin is being punctured it's important that people take precautions to make sure that they don't get more than just a tattoo.

