

1980s Pop Culture Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

1980s Pop Culture trivia captures a decade defined by MTV, arcade games, teen comedies, blockbuster franchises, and celebrity-driven style. This quiz experience highlights the references, fads, and headline moments that made the 1980s instantly recognizable, from easy crowd-pleasers to tougher deep cuts for devoted fans.

HARD 1980S POP CULTURE TRIVIA

1. Which 1988 release took the Academy Award for Best Picture?

Answer: Rain Man

2. At the 1988 Grammys, who was named Best New Artist?

Answer: Jody Watley

3. What film studio, later associated with major late-1980s and 1990s releases, was founded in 1987?

Answer: Castle Rock Entertainment

4. Before Spielberg's alien hit got its final name, what was the development title of 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial'?

Answer: A Boy's Life

5. Which director was behind 1984's 'The Terminator'?

Answer: James Cameron

6. Who directed 'Top Gun'?

Answer: Tony Scott

7. What street name completed the title of the horror franchise that began in 1984: 'A Nightmare on ____ Street'?

Answer: Elm

8. Who played Freddy Krueger in the original 'A Nightmare on Elm Street'?

Answer: Robert Englund

9. True or false: Studio Ghibli's 'My Neighbor Totoro' first had a major U.S. home release in the 1980s.?

Answer: False

10. Which band performed 'Don't You (Forget About Me)' for 'The Breakfast Club'?

Answer: Simple Minds

11. Jason's hockey mask became part of the 'Friday the 13th' films in which 1982 sequel?

Answer: Friday the 13th Part III

12. In which city is the sitcom 'Cheers' set?

Answer: Boston

13. The title 'Beverly Hills, 90210' combines a California city with what city name?

Answer: Beverly Hills

14. Madonna released which album in 1989?

Answer: Like a Prayer

FUNNY 1980S POP CULTURE TRIVIA

1. The Griswolds packed the station wagon and all their bad decisions for a trip to what fictional destination in 'National Lampoon's Vacation'?

Answer: Walley World

2. Which 1988 comedy starred Eddie Murphy, proving that royal travel plans can get very entertaining?

Answer: Coming to America

3. What famous fast-food line from a 1984 Wendy's commercial basically launched a thousand punchlines?

Answer: Where's the beef?

4. Which sitcom premiered in 1985 and served friendship, sarcasm, and cheesecake in equal portions?

Answer: The Golden Girls

5. The line 'Surely you can't be serious' comes from which 1980 comedy that refused to let logic sit in the cockpit?

Answer: Airplane!

6. What sitcom debuted in 1986, bringing fish-out-of-water energy and enough culture clash for two lifetimes?

Answer: Perfect Strangers

7. Dana Carvey's holier-than-thou comic creation debuted on 'Saturday Night Live' in 1986. Who was she?

Answer: Church Lady

8. True or false: 'No soup for you!' is an iconic 1980s catchphrase.?

Answer: False

9. If a class of chaotic rookie cops graduated in 1984, what comedy were you probably watching?

Answer: Police Academy

10. In 'Pee-wee's Big Adventure' (1985), what character was played by Paul Reubens?

Answer: Pee-wee Herman

11. Which 1988 comedy carried the gloriously overlong title 'From the Files of Police Squad!'?

Answer: The Naked Gun

12. Tom Hanks starred in what 1984 mermaid comedy, proving romance can get very splashy?

Answer: Splash

13. Which film became the highest-grossing U.S. release of 1987, despite sounding like a daycare emergency?

Answer: Three Men and a Baby

FUN 1980S POP CULTURE TRIVIA

1. Before moon-person trophies became a tradition, what awards show held its very first ceremony in 1984?

Answer: The MTV Video Music Awards

2. Which 1984 hit movie paired Eddie Murphy with a Detroit cop story and a very memorable laugh?

Answer: Beverly Hills Cop

3. What 1984 teen movie was both written and directed by John Hughes?

Answer: Sixteen Candles

4. In 'Sixteen Candles,' which actress played Samantha Baker?

Answer: Molly Ringwald

5. George Michael was one half of which pop duo?

Answer: Wham!

6. Which 1985 song became especially famous for its pencil-sketch-style music video?

Answer: Take On Me

7. Meg Ryan played which character in the 1989 film 'When Harry Met Sally...'?

Answer: Sally Albright

8. Prince doubled down in 1984 by releasing a film and an album with the same title. What was it?

Answer: Purple Rain

9. Which Madonna album arrived in 1984 with a title that became one of the decade's most recognizable phrases?

Answer: Like a Virgin

10. Where does almost all of 'The Breakfast Club' take place?

Answer: During a Saturday detention

11. Which 1984 movie starred Kevin Bacon and had audiences dancing like the rules didn't apply?

Answer: Footloose

12. What novelty hit from 1982 was inspired by the arcade game 'Pac-Man'?

Answer: Pac-Man Fever

13. True or false: 'He-Man and the Masters of the Universe' premiered in 1983.?

Answer: True

1980S POP CULTURE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which Disney movie about a tiny-sized family adventure was released in 1989?

Answer: Honey, I Shrunk the Kids

2. What under-the-sea animated film premiered in 1989?

Answer: The Little Mermaid

3. Which sitcom about a wisecracking alien debuted in 1986?

Answer: ALF

4. In what year was 'The Goonies' released?

Answer: 1985

5. Which 1988 movie brought cartoons and live action together in theaters?

Answer: Who Framed Roger Rabbit

6. What handheld game system did Nintendo release in 1989?

Answer: Game Boy

7. Which animated series about Scrooge McDuck premiered in syndication in 1987?

Answer: DuckTales

8. Tom Hanks starred in which 1988 film about a kid with a very grown-up problem?

Answer: Big

9. Which fantasy adventure movie was released in 1987: 'The Princess Bride' or 'The Little Mermaid'?

Answer: The Princess Bride

10. What game console reached the U.S. market in 1985 for Nintendo?

Answer: Nintendo Entertainment System

11. Who directed the movie 'Beetlejuice'?

Answer: Tim Burton

12. Before the late 1980s arrived, which movie had already been released in 1984?

Answer: The Karate Kid

EASY 1980S POP CULTURE TRIVIA

1. Who first performed the moonwalk on television in 1983 during 'Billie Jean'?

Answer: Michael Jackson

2. Which video game debuted on the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1985?

Answer: Super Mario Bros.

3. What was the first music video played when MTV launched in 1981?

Answer: Video Killed the Radio Star

4. Which 1986 movie starred Tom Cruise as Maverick?

Answer: Top Gun

5. Who sang the 1983 hit 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun'?

Answer: Cyndi Lauper

6. Which sitcom premiered on ABC in 1987?

Answer: Full House

7. Who began hosting 'The Oprah Winfrey Show' nationally in 1986?

Answer: Oprah Winfrey

8. Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey starred in which 1987 movie?

Answer: Dirty Dancing

9. Who was the lead singer of Culture Club?

Answer: Boy George

10. Which TV drama premiered on NBC in 1984?

Answer: Miami Vice

11. What time-travel movie hit theaters in 1985?

Answer: Back to the Future

12. Which television network began prime-time programming in 1987?

Answer: Fox

13. Whose debut studio album was released in 1985?

Answer: Whitney Houston

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/1980s-pop-culture>