

1980s Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts

Printable Trivia Pack

1980s trivia captures a decade shaped by MTV, arcade games, blockbuster movies, big-hair fashion, and the closing years of the Cold War. It offers a family-friendly mix of easy laughs and tougher questions that test how well you remember the music, events, and icons that made the era so distinctive.

HARD 1980S TRIVIA

1. Which IBM machine, introduced in 1981, carried the model number 5150?

Answer: The IBM Personal Computer

2. In 1984, Steve Jobs unveiled which computer that became a landmark Apple release?

Answer: The Macintosh

3. What did Tim Berners-Lee propose in 1989 that would transform how people navigate information online?

Answer: The World Wide Web

4. Which political scandal was exposed to public view in 1986?

Answer: The Iran-Contra affair

5. Who was the first female prime minister of the United Kingdom and remained in office throughout the 1980s?

Answer: Margaret Thatcher

6. The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster took place in what Soviet republic?

Answer: Soviet Ukraine

7. Argentina went to war with the United Kingdom in 1982 over what conflict?

Answer: The Falklands War

8. What was the name of the first modern cellular network launched in the United States in 1983?

Answer: 1G

9. Which software product had its first version released by Microsoft in 1985?

Answer: Microsoft Windows

10. During the 1980s, what California region solidified its reputation as a major technology hub?

Answer: Silicon Valley

11. Which industrial catastrophe struck India in 1984?

Answer: The Bhopal disaster

12. Who became the first American woman in space in 1983?

Answer: Sally Ride

13. Which race held its inaugural run in 1981, establishing a major annual event in the UK?

Answer: The London Marathon

14. Who won the Wimbledon women's singles title six straight times from 1982 through 1987?

Answer: Martina Navratilova

FUNNY 1980S TRIVIA

1. Which disaster spoof crash-landed into theaters in 1980, proving bad flights can make great comedy?

Answer: Airplane!

2. What 1986 comedy follows a student who treats skipping school like an Olympic event?

Answer: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

3. Which 1988 comedy carried the very official-sounding subtitle "From the Files of Police Squad!"?

Answer: The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!

4. Who played Frank Drebin in "The Naked Gun," making deadpan confusion look like a superpower?

Answer: Leslie Nielsen

5. Which Eddie Murphy comedy arrived in 1988 with a royal title and fish-out-of-water laughs?

Answer: Coming to America

6. Which 1987 fantasy comedy featured both Billy Crystal and Christopher Guest in its ensemble?

Answer: The Princess Bride

7. Who directed "Beetlejuice," the movie that made the afterlife seem aggressively weird?

Answer: Tim Burton

8. In "Spaceballs," who played the oversized-villain-energy role of Dark Helmet?

Answer: Rick Moranis

9. What comedy academy opened its doors in 1984, probably with a very loud orientation session?

Answer: Police Academy

10. Who released the parody song "Eat It" in 1984, serving pop satire with a side of snacks?

Answer: "Weird Al" Yankovic

11. Which 1983 comedy teamed Eddie Murphy with Dan Aykroyd like a buddy setup engineered in a lab?

Answer: Trading Places

12. What holiday comedy hit in 1989, reminding everyone that festive cheer and family chaos are basically roommates?

Answer: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

13. Which 1988 film starred Tom Hanks as Josh Baskin, a kid suddenly dealing with very adult-sized problems?

Answer: Big

FUN 1980S TRIVIA

1. What 1984 release let Prince Rogers Nelson turn the color purple into a pop-culture event?

Answer: Purple Rain

2. Before going solo, George Michael was one half of which pop duo?

Answer: Wham!

3. Madonna released which album in 1984?

Answer: Like a Virgin

4. Which twisty puzzle became an international craze in the 1980s, frustrating thumbs and dazzling classrooms?

Answer: Rubik's Cube

5. True or false: "Die Hard" is set largely inside a Los Angeles skyscraper.?

Answer: True

6. Who starred in "Beverly Hills Cop" in 1984?

Answer: Eddie Murphy

7. Which TV comedy show added Eddie Murphy to its cast in 1980?

Answer: Saturday Night Live

8. If someone in an '80s movie says they're heading to a famous New York City nightclub called Studio 54, what place are they talking about?

Answer: Studio 54

9. The first WrestleMania happened in 1985 at which famous venue?

Answer: Madison Square Garden

10. Which hockey superstar was traded from the Edmonton Oilers to the Los Angeles Kings in 1988?

Answer: Wayne Gretzky

11. What big-city race became a major fitness trend in the 1980s marathon boom?

Answer: New York City Marathon

12. Whose workout videos basically told the 1980s to put on leg warmers and get moving?

Answer: Jane Fonda

13. Which dance-heavy movie was released in 1984 and practically dares you not to tap your feet?

Answer: Footloose

1980S FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who directed the family sci-fi hit "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"?

Answer: Steven Spielberg directed "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial."

2. Which actor played Marty McFly in "Back to the Future"?

Answer: Michael J. Fox played Marty McFly in "Back to the Future."

3. On "The A-Team," who played B. A. Baracus?

Answer: Mr. T played B. A. Baracus.

4. In what year was "Ghostbusters" released?

Answer: "Ghostbusters" was released in 1984.

5. Which Disney movie swam into theaters in 1989: "The Little Mermaid" or "Bambi"?

Answer: "The Little Mermaid"

6. What comic made its first debut in 1984: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"?

Answer: Yes! "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" debuted as a comic in 1984.

7. Name the movie that was released in 1987 and is famous for dancing: "Dirty Dancing" or "Footloose"?

Answer: "Dirty Dancing"

8. Tiny adventure, big screen: which movie reached theaters in 1989, "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids"?

Answer: "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" reached theaters in 1989.

9. Before becoming a full TV series, "The Simpsons" began as shorts on which show in 1987?

Answer: "The Tracey Ullman Show"

10. In what year was "The Goonies" released?

Answer: "The Goonies" was released in 1985.

11. Which movie premiered in 1988 and mixed cartoons with live action?

Answer: "Who Framed Roger Rabbit"

12. Which handheld game system launched in 1989?

Answer: The Game Boy launched in 1989.

EASY 1980S TRIVIA

1. Who became president of the United States in 1981?

Answer: Ronald Reagan

2. What music television channel launched in 1981?

Answer: MTV

3. Michael Jackson released which blockbuster album in 1982?

Answer: Thriller

4. Whose wedding to Lady Diana Spencer took place in 1981?

Answer: Prince Charles

5. What famous barrier fell in 1989?

Answer: The Berlin Wall

6. The 1980 Summer Olympics were held in which city?

Answer: Moscow

7. Which yellow arcade character first chomping into arcades in 1980?

Answer: Pac-Man

8. Nintendo released which classic game for the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1985?

Answer: Super Mario Bros.

9. What was the name of the space shuttle lost in the 1986 disaster?

Answer: Challenger

10. What was the name of the huge benefit concerts held in 1985?

Answer: Live Aid

11. Who sang the hit song "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"?

Answer: Cyndi Lauper

12. Tom Cruise starred in which 1986 movie about fighter pilots?

Answer: Top Gun

13. The Chicago Cubs play their home games at what ballpark?

Answer: Wrigley Field

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