1950s Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. In which California city did the first Disneyland park open in 1955?
   - A. Anaheim
   - B. Burbank
   - C. Long Beach
   - D. San Diego

   Correct answer: A. Anaheim
   The first Disneyland park opened to invited guests in Anaheim on July 17, 1955. The public could visit the following day.

2. Who won the Best Actress Oscar for Roman Holiday at the 1954 Academy Awards?
   - A. Deborah Kerr
   - B. Grace Kelly
   - C. Audrey Hepburn
   - D. Ava Gardner

   Correct answer: C. Audrey Hepburn
   The Academy lists Audrey Hepburn as its Best Actress winner for her performance in Roman Holiday.

3. Which U.S. territory became the 49th state in January 1959?
   - A. Hawaii
   - B. Alaska
   - C. Puerto Rico
   - D. Guam

   Correct answer: B. Alaska
   Congress passed the Alaska Statehood Act in 1958. A presidential proclamation in January 1959 made Alaska the 49th state.

4. Which Brazilian player matched teammate Vavá’s two goals in the 1958 men’s World Cup final against Sweden?
   - A. Mário Zagallo
   - B. Garrincha
   - C. Didi
   - D. Pelé

   Correct answer: D. Pelé
   Pelé and Vavá each scored twice in the final. Brazil won 5–2 against host nation Sweden.

5. What shape did the DNA model described in 1953 propose for the molecule?

A. A single helix
B. A double helix
C. A triple helix
D. A flat ladder

Correct answer: B. A double helix
The model proposed two strands winding around one another. A common way to picture the shape is a ladder that twists.

6. Charlie Brown appears in the first Peanuts strip, published in October 1950. Which two characters appear with him?

A. Shermy and Patty
B. Linus and Lucy
C. Snoopy and Woodstock
D. Schroeder and Sally

Correct answer: A. Shermy and Patty
The debut strip features Charlie Brown, Shermy, and Patty. The cast expanded after the strip began.

7. Australia’s horse quarantine rules affected the 1956 Summer Olympics. Where did organizers hold the equestrian events while Melbourne remained the main host?

A. Copenhagen
B. Helsinki
C. Rome
D. Stockholm

Correct answer: D. Stockholm
Stockholm hosted the equestrian events in June 1956. The Melbourne portion of the Games took place later that year.

8. What feature near Earth did scientists identify using 1958 measurements from Explorer 1 and Explorer 3?

A. A second natural satellite orbiting beyond the Moon
B. A ring of ice particles orbiting above Earth’s equator
C. A belt of charged particles trapped by Earth’s magnetic field
D. A gap in Earth’s gravity above the North Pole

Correct answer: C. A belt of charged particles trapped by Earth’s magnetic field
The two missions provided evidence for an inner radiation belt. Later measurements helped identify an outer belt as well.

9. The April 1955 Asian-African Conference took its common name from the city of Bandung. Which country hosted it?

A. Indonesia
B. India
C. Pakistan
D. Egypt

Correct answer: A. Indonesia
Bandung is in Indonesia. Representatives from 29 Asian and African governments gathered there to discuss matters including economic cooperation and decolonization.

10. Which toy company made the hollow plastic Hula Hoop that became a craze in 1958?

A. Ideal
B. Mattel
C. Hasbro
D. Wham-O

Correct answer: D. Wham-O
Wham-O developed and marketed the hollow plastic hoop. The Strong National Museum of Play records millions of sales in its first two months.

11. A fictional 1959 caption calls every part of the shipping route from the Atlantic to the upper Great Lakes the St. Lawrence Seaway. Which edit best distinguishes the Seaway from the full system?

A. The Seaway starts at Lake Erie and reaches west to Lake Superior.
B. The Seaway runs from the Atlantic to Montreal and ends before any of the locks.
C. The Seaway reaches from Montreal to mid-Lake Erie within the longer Atlantic-to-Great Lakes route.
D. The Seaway runs from Montreal to the Hudson River and reaches the Atlantic through New York.

Correct answer: C. The Seaway reaches from Montreal to mid-Lake Erie within the longer Atlantic-to-Great Lakes route.
The Seaway portion runs from Montreal to mid-Lake Erie. It forms part of the larger system linking the Atlantic to the upper Great Lakes.

12. Articles II and III of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty address research. Which pair of rules would fit a research team’s summary of those articles?

A. Scientists remain free to investigate, and teams keep observations and results private.
B. Scientists remain free to investigate, and teams share observations and results.
C. Scientific investigation ends, and earlier results are shared.
D. Scientific investigation is limited to a single country, and findings are shared only within that country.

Correct answer: B. Scientists remain free to investigate, and teams share observations and results.
The treaty continues freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation. It also calls for exchange and open access to scientific observations and results.

13. A museum lists two TAT-1 cables laid between Scotland and Newfoundland by 1956. How did the original telephone link use the pair for speech?

A. Both cables carried speech eastward, with westward speech sent by radio.
B. One cable carried speech both ways, and the other stayed on standby.
C. Both cables carried speech westward, with eastward speech sent by radio.
D. One cable carried speech in each direction.

Correct answer: D. One cable carried speech in each direction.
The first transatlantic telephone cable system used a separate cable for each direction of speech.

14. A fictional display describes LEGO’s 1958 brick as locking together with the top studs alone. What feature completes the design described in the company’s patent history?

A. Tubes underneath the brick help hold the studs of the brick below in place.
B. New studs on both faces line up tip to tip when bricks are stacked.
C. A separate flat connector must slide between every pair of bricks.
D. Bricks grip each other only where slots on their outside walls line up.

Correct answer: A. Tubes underneath the brick help hold the studs of the brick below in place.
The 1958 design combines studs on top with tubes beneath. The snug fit helps stacked bricks hold together.

15. A theater wants to recreate the original picture presentation of This Is Cinerama. Which setup matches the one described in the Library of Congress archive?

A. One projector sends the same picture to three separate flat screens.
B. Three projectors alternate frames on a small flat screen.
C. Three projectors run together to fill sections of a deeply curved screen.
D. Two projectors overlap their pictures on a flat screen for viewers wearing glasses.

Correct answer: C. Three projectors run together to fill sections of a deeply curved screen.
Cinerama ran three projectors at once, placing their pictures side by side across a deeply curved screen.