1970s Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which gymnast earned the first perfect 10 in Olympic gymnastics at the 1976 Montreal Games?

A. Nadia Comăneci
B. Olga Korbut
C. Nellie Kim
D. Ludmilla Tourischeva

Correct answer: A. Nadia Comăneci

Romania's Nadia Comăneci earned the first perfect score. The scoreboard displayed 1.00 because it lacked room for 10.00.

2. Which boxing film won Best Picture at the 1977 Academy Awards?

A. The Great White Hope
B. Raging Bull
C. Rocky
D. The Champ

Correct answer: C. Rocky

The Academy lists Rocky as the Best Picture winner at its 1977 ceremony. Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff received the award as producers.

3. What item was scanned at the first commercial supermarket checkout to use a product barcode in 1974?

A. A can of soup
B. A pack of chewing gum
C. A box of cereal
D. A bar of soap

Correct answer: B. A pack of chewing gum

The first scan was a pack of Wrigley's gum at a Marsh supermarket in Ohio on June 26, 1974.

4. NASA's Viking 1 lander touched down on which planet in 1976?

A. Jupiter
B. Venus
C. Mercury
D. Mars

Correct answer: D. Mars

Viking 1 reached the surface of Mars on July 20, 1976. Its landing site was Chryse Planitia, a plain in the planet's northern hemisphere.

5. Which Australian performing arts venue, originally designed by Jørn Utzon, officially opened in October 1973?

A. Perth Concert Hall
B. Sydney Opera House
C. Canberra Theatre Centre
D. Arts Centre Melbourne

Correct answer: B. Sydney Opera House
The Sydney Opera House officially opened on October 20, 1973, on Sydney Harbour. Jørn Utzon was the original architect.

6. Which film soundtrack won Album of the Year at the 1979 Grammy Awards?

A. Saturday Night Fever
B. Grease
C. A Star Is Born
D. The Wiz

Correct answer: A. Saturday Night Fever
The Recording Academy gave Album of the Year to the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack. The winning credits included the Bee Gees and other contributors.

7. Hank Aaron passed Babe Ruth's career home run total on April 8, 1974. What career total did Aaron reach with that hit?

A. 755 home runs
B. 714 home runs
C. 700 home runs
D. 715 home runs

Correct answer: D. 715 home runs
Aaron hit his 715th career home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers. He had tied Ruth's total of 714 on Opening Day.

8. Which description fits the Polaroid SX-70 camera introduced in the 1970s?

A. A compact digital camera that stored images electronically
B. A folding movie camera that used Super 8 film
C. A folding camera that took instant photographs
D. A studio camera that exposed glass plates

Correct answer: C. A folding camera that took instant photographs
The SX-70 was an instant-film camera with a folding body that became compact when closed.

9. The City of Quito and the Galápagos Islands were among the sites added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1978. Which country is home to both?

A. Ecuador
B. Peru
C. Colombia
D. Chile

Correct answer: A. Ecuador
Quito is on Ecuador's mainland. The Galápagos Islands also belong to Ecuador, off its Pacific coast.

10. Which space station reached Earth orbit in 1971 and became the world's first space station?

A. International Space Station
B. Skylab
C. Mir
D. Salyut 1

Correct answer: D. Salyut 1
NASA's historical account identifies the Soviet Union's Salyut 1 as the first space station. The station launched on April 19, 1971.

11. A route card for Air France's first commercial Concorde flight in January 1976 shows Paris, a stop in Dakar, and a missing destination. Which city completes the route?

A. Caracas
B. Buenos Aires
C. Rio de Janeiro
D. Mexico City

Correct answer: C. Rio de Janeiro
Air France flew its commercial Concorde debut from Paris to Rio de Janeiro on January 21, 1976, with a stop in Dakar.

12. The Jim Henson Company's production notes describe a deal with ATV to tape the first two episodes of The Muppet Show in January 1976. Which country was the production based in?

A. United States
B. United Kingdom
C. Canada
D. Australia

Correct answer: B. United Kingdom
The Jim Henson Company archive records a London deal with Lew Grade and ATV. Henson brought the production to the United Kingdom.

13. The United Nations Yearbook records the independence of four formerly Portuguese-administered territories in 1975. Which pairing matches the yearbook?

A. São Tomé and Príncipe on July 5
B. Angola on July 12
C. Cape Verde on November 11
D. Mozambique on June 25

Correct answer: D. Mozambique on June 25
The yearbook records Mozambique on June 25, Cape Verde on July 5, São Tomé and Príncipe on July 12, and Angola on November 11.

14. A Smithsonian record catalogs Lucy as fossil specimen AL 288-1, discovered in 1974. Which location and species belong on the label?

A. Hadar, Ethiopia, and Australopithecus afarensis
B. Hadar, Ethiopia, and Australopithecus africanus
C. Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, and Australopithecus afarensis
D. Sterkfontein, South Africa, and Homo habilis

Correct answer: A. Hadar, Ethiopia, and Australopithecus afarensis
The Smithsonian identifies AL 288-1 as a specimen of Australopithecus afarensis from Hadar, Ethiopia. The individual is commonly known as Lucy.

15. A 1975 men's Cricket World Cup final scorecard from Lord's shows the West Indies on 291 runs and Australia on 274. Which result fits both the totals and the tournament's place in cricket history?

A. The West Indies won the inaugural men's tournament by 27 runs.
B. Australia won the inaugural men's tournament by 17 runs.
C. The West Indies won the inaugural men's tournament by 17 runs.
D. The West Indies won the second men's tournament by 17 runs.

Correct answer: C. The West Indies won the inaugural men's tournament by 17 runs.
The West Indies finished 17 runs ahead, since 291 minus 274 is 17. This was the first men's Cricket World Cup.