1980s Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. A 1984 museum label describes a compact Apple computer with a built-in screen and a mouse. Which model is the label about?
   - A. Macintosh
   - B. Apple I
   - C. Power Macintosh G3
   - D. iMac G3

   Correct answer: A. Macintosh
   Apple introduced the first Macintosh in 1984. The original machine had a built-in screen and a mouse.

2. Peter Venkman, Ray Stantz, Egon Spengler, and Winston Zeddemore start an unusual business in which 1984 film?
   - A. The Goonies
   - B. Gremlins
   - C. Ghostbusters
   - D. Beetlejuice

   Correct answer: C. Ghostbusters
   The four characters run a ghost removal business in the original Ghostbusters.

3. In the 1986 film Top Gun, what nickname goes with the character Pete Mitchell?
   - A. Goose
   - B. Maverick
   - C. Iceman
   - D. Viper

   Correct answer: B. Maverick
   Paramount’s credits identify Tom Cruise’s character as Pete ‘Maverick’ Mitchell.

4. Nintendo launched the Family Computer in Japan in 1983. What name did the system use outside Japan?
   - A. Nintendo 64
   - B. Super Nintendo Entertainment System
   - C. Game Boy
   - D. Nintendo Entertainment System

   Correct answer: D. Nintendo Entertainment System
   Outside Japan the console was known as the Nintendo Entertainment System, or NES.

5. An object sold as the Magic Cube gained which name at its international launch in 1980?

A. Pyraminx
B. Rubik’s Cube
C. Soma Cube
D. Tetris

Correct answer: B. Rubik’s Cube
The Magic Cube took inventor Ernő Rubik’s name for its international release.

6. Queen’s archive puts its July 13, 1985 Live Aid performance in which venue?

A. Wembley Stadium
B. Madison Square Garden
C. The Forum in Inglewood
D. Sydney Opera House

Correct answer: A. Wembley Stadium
Queen played the London portion of Live Aid at Wembley Stadium.

7. Before the first half-hour episode of The Simpsons aired in December 1989, the family appeared in short sketches on which program?

A. Newhart
B. Saturday Night Live
C. The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson
D. The Tracey Ullman Show

Correct answer: D. The Tracey Ullman Show
The characters appeared in short animated segments on The Tracey Ullman Show before the longer episodes began.

8. Which pair wrote ‘We Are the World,’ the charity single that won Song of the Year at the 1986 Grammys?

A. Diana Ross and Quincy Jones
B. Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney
C. Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie
D. Bruce Springsteen and Cyndi Lauper

Correct answer: C. Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie
The Recording Academy lists Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie as the songwriters honored for the single.

9. Who won the inaugural women’s Olympic marathon at Los Angeles 1984?

A. Joan Benoit Samuelson
B. Grete Waitz
C. Rosa Mota
D. Ingrid Kristiansen

Correct answer: A. Joan Benoit Samuelson
Joan Benoit, later Joan Benoit Samuelson, won the first women’s Olympic marathon.

10. In January 1986 Voyager 2 became the first spacecraft to fly by which planet?

A. Neptune
B. Jupiter
C. Saturn
D. Uranus

Correct answer: D. Uranus
Voyager 2 flew past Uranus in January 1986. Its Neptune flyby followed in 1989.

11. Which 1986 Pixar short is about two desk lamps?

A. Knick Knack
B. Tin Toy
C. Luxo Jr.
D. For the Birds

Correct answer: C. Luxo Jr.
Pixar’s 1986 short Luxo Jr. focuses on a large lamp and a smaller one.

12. At the 1986 Oscars, Back to the Future won for the work of Charles L. Campbell and Robert Rutledge. Which category was it?

A. Visual Effects
B. Sound Effects Editing
C. Film Editing
D. Original Song

Correct answer: B. Sound Effects Editing
The Academy records their win in Sound Effects Editing. The film received an Original Song nomination as well.

13. Which entry appears first in the historical list of registered .com domains, dated March 15, 1985?

A. ibm.com
B. apple.com
C. xerox.com
D. symbolics.com

Correct answer: D. symbolics.com
The .com registry’s history lists symbolics.com as the first registered name in that domain.

14. An archive entry says the European Space Agency’s Giotto spacecraft encountered a comet in March 1986. Which comet was the target on that flight?

A. Halley
B. Hale–Bopp
C. Hyakutake
D. Encke

Correct answer: A. Halley
The 1986 Giotto encounter captured close views of Halley’s comet and measurements around its nucleus.

15. A 1989 CERN proposal describes a system that could link documents on different computers so readers could follow connections between them. What did the proposal lay the groundwork for?

A. Compact discs
B. Satellite navigation
C. The World Wide Web
D. Spreadsheet macros

Correct answer: C. The World Wide Web
Tim Berners-Lee proposed an internet-based hypertext system in March 1989. It developed into the World Wide Web.