Gen X Era Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What did Sony’s original TPS-L2 Walkman, released in Japan in 1979, play?
   - A. Audio cassette tapes
   - B. Compact discs
   - C. Seven-inch records
   - D. Eight-track cartridges

   Correct answer: A. Audio cassette tapes
   The TPS-L2 was a portable audio cassette player. MoMA dates the original model to 1979.

2. What did players try to do in the 1978 electronic game Simon?
   - A. Move a token through a maze
   - B. Match numbers on rolling dice
   - C. Repeat a pattern of lights and sounds
   - D. Guess a word from recorded voice clues

   Correct answer: C. Repeat a pattern of lights and sounds
   Simon produces a pattern of lights and sounds. The player uses its colored buttons to repeat the pattern in order.

3. Who began hosting the PBS reading series Reading Rainbow in 1983?
   - A. Fred Rogers
   - B. LeVar Burton
   - C. Bill Nye
   - D. Bob Ross

   Correct answer: B. LeVar Burton
   The Television Academy lists LeVar Burton as the show’s host and executive producer beginning in 1983.

4. Which singer recorded Jagged Little Pill, the 1996 Grammy winner for Album of the Year?
   - A. Fiona Apple
   - B. Sheryl Crow
   - C. Tori Amos
   - D. Alanis Morissette

   Correct answer: D. Alanis Morissette
   The Recording Academy credits Alanis Morissette. Jagged Little Pill also won Best Rock Album at the same ceremony.

5. At the 1992 Summer Olympics, in which sport did the U.S. men’s team nicknamed the Dream Team compete?

A. Baseball
B. Basketball
C. Volleyball
D. Water polo

Correct answer: B. Basketball
USA Basketball uses the nickname Dream Team for its 1992 men’s Olympic basketball team.

6. Which combination does Mead identify with the Trapper Keeper binder associated with the 1980s and 1990s?

A. Rings to hold folders and a closure to keep the binder shut
B. A roll of blank paper in a refillable case
C. A set of removable index cards with no binder
D. A spiral-bound pad with a built-in pencil sharpener

Correct answer: A. Rings to hold folders and a closure to keep the binder shut
Mead’s description of the classic design includes binder rings, folders, and a closure that keeps the contents together.

7. The Television Academy’s interview archive groups Rugrats and Doug with a third early Nickelodeon cartoon. Which series completes that group?

A. The Wild Thornberrys
B. Hey Arnold!
C. Rocko’s Modern Life
D. The Ren & Stimpy Show

Correct answer: D. The Ren & Stimpy Show
Nickelodeon executive Tom Freston discusses Rugrats, Doug, and The Ren & Stimpy Show as early original animated programs for the channel.

8. Which LEGO line does the company’s timeline record as the introduction of its intelligent brick system in 1998?

A. LEGO Bionicle
B. LEGO Duplo
C. LEGO Mindstorms
D. LEGO Castle

Correct answer: C. LEGO Mindstorms
The company dates the introduction of Mindstorms to 1998. Its timeline identifies it as the line built around the intelligent LEGO brick.

9. Delegates voted on resolutions at the 1977 National Women’s Conference in Houston. What did organizers aim to deliver to the federal government?

A. A national plan of action based on the resolutions
B. A new census of the city of Houston
C. A final schedule for an Olympic bid
D. A list of appointments to state courts

Correct answer: A. A national plan of action based on the resolutions
The National Archives describes the delegates’ work on a plan of action. Its report, The Spirit of Houston, was prepared for the Carter administration and Congress.

10. What theme did McDonald’s give the package for its first nationwide U.S. Happy Meal in June 1979?

A. An ice cream truck
B. A space shuttle
C. A school bus
D. A circus wagon

Correct answer: D. A circus wagon
The company’s archive calls the original nationwide release the Circus Wagon Happy Meal. Its decorated box came with a small toy.

11. A fictional exhibit says the 1978 Speak & Spell played a tape recording to say each word. What correction matches the Computer History Museum’s account?

A. It played spoken words from a tiny record with grooves.
B. It played spoken words recorded on a miniature cassette.
C. It generated spoken words using an electronic speech synthesis chip.
D. It received spoken words by tuning to a nearby radio station.

Correct answer: C. It generated spoken words using an electronic speech synthesis chip.
Texas Instruments’ learning aid produced synthetic speech electronically. Its chip turned stored digital data into the sounds of spoken words.

12. A fictional caption says the 1985 Etak Navigator worked out a car’s position from satellite signals. Which correction fits the Interface Museum’s record?

A. It calculated its position from radio transmitters at traffic lights.
B. It used measurements of the car’s movement together with stored road maps.
C. It estimated position from a live aerial image received from a satellite.
D. It placed the car on the map according to the time of day alone.

Correct answer: B. It used measurements of the car’s movement together with stored road maps.
Etak used measurements from a compass and wheel sensors to estimate movement. It checked that estimate against its stored road maps.

13. A fictional production label classifies 1988’s Who Framed Roger Rabbit as fully animated because Roger is a cartoon character. Which description fits Disney’s production account?

A. The film used live action only in a separate prologue, before a fully animated story.
B. The film animated all performers and used actors only to record dialogue.
C. The film used live actors with puppets to portray every cartoon character.
D. The film combined footage of live actors with animated characters.

Correct answer: D. The film combined footage of live actors with animated characters.
Disney’s archive describes a mixture of live action and animation. Actors performed scenes that later incorporated drawn characters.

14. A fictional media exhibit calls the standardized Parental Advisory label introduced in 1990 a government movie rating. Which description fits the Federal Trade Commission’s account?

A. It was a voluntary music-industry label advising listeners about recording content.
B. It was a federal rating assigned to every film before release.
C. It was an age code used by video rental stores to rate all games.
D. It was a label that certified a recording’s sound quality.

Correct answer: A. It was a voluntary music-industry label advising listeners about recording content.
The FTC describes a voluntary music-industry program. The standardized label was an advisory about the content of recordings.

15. A fictional timeline shows the first two International Space Station modules launching together in 1998. Which sequence matches NASA’s assembly record?

A. Zarya and Unity were joined on the ground and launched together.
B. Unity launched first, Zarya launched later, and the two were then joined in orbit.
C. Zarya launched first, Unity launched later, and the two were then joined in orbit.
D. Zarya and Unity launched separately, and the two were first joined after both returned to Earth.

Correct answer: C. Zarya launched first, Unity launched later, and the two were then joined in orbit.
Zarya launched in November 1998 and Unity in December. The Endeavour crew joined the modules in orbit on December 6.