

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Operation Time Machine: 3rd Grade Modern History Quest

Evidence analysis, sequencing, and cultural impact — students identifying the inventions and heroes that changed how we live today in this engaging review session.

1. Which invention from the 1970s allowed people to watch movies at home for the first time using a plastic tape?

Answer: B) The VCR

The VCR (Video Cassette Recorder) was a major 1970s invention that changed how families watched movies at home.

2. The Mars Pathfinder mission in 1997 was the first time the U.S. sent a robotic rover to explore the surface of the Red Planet.

Answer: A) True

The Mars Pathfinder was a huge 1990s milestone where the Sojourner rover successfully landed and took photos of Mars.

3. In 1983, _____ became the first American woman to travel into outer space.

Answer: B) Sally Ride

Sally Ride was a physicist and astronaut who broke barriers for women in science during the 1980s.

4. Which of these became a popular way for children to play games in the 1980s, changing how we use technology for fun?

Answer: A) The Nintendo Entertainment System (NES)

The NES helped launch the modern home video game industry, making gaming a common household activity.

5. The first 'smartphones' that could browse the web and take photos existed in the 1970s.

Answer: B) False

Early cell phones were very large and could only make calls; smartphones didn't become common until the late 2000s.

6. In 1981, the American government launched 'Columbia,' which was the world's first reusable _____.

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Answer: C) Space Shuttle

The Space Shuttle was unique because it could fly into space and land back on Earth like an airplane to be used again.

7. Which significant change happened to American schools and many offices during the 1990s?

Answer: B) They began connecting to the World Wide Web (the Internet).

The 1990s was the decade when the Internet became available to the public, changing how we research and communicate.

8. Sonia Sotomayor made history in 2009 by becoming the first Hispanic Justice on the United States Supreme Court.

Answer: A) True

Sonia Sotomayor's appointment was a major milestone for representation in the U.S. judicial system.

9. The _____ was a major project in the 2000s that allowed several countries to work together building a laboratory in space.

Answer: B) International Space Station

The ISS is a symbol of global cooperation where astronauts from different nations live and work together.

10. In the 2010s, what became a very common way for people to help the environment in their own neighborhoods?

Answer: A) Curbside recycling and using reusable bags

During the 2010s, awareness of climate change led to widespread community efforts like recycling and reducing plastic waste.