

Time Line of the 1980s

1980

- Mount St. Helens erupted.
- CNN began broadcasting 24-hour news.
- *Voyager 1* sent back images of Saturn and its moons.
- Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter for president.
- Smallpox was considered eradicated by the World Health Organization.
- The United States refused to attend the Summer Olympics in Moscow.
- The U.S. Supreme Court allowed patents on living organisms.

1981

- Ronald Reagan was shot by John Hinckley.
- MTV, the 24-hour music station, debuted on cable television.
- 52 American hostages were released from Iran after 14 months.
- Postage rates rose from 15 to 18 cents an ounce.
- Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female Supreme Court Justice.
- The U.S. Agriculture Department tried to classify ketchup as a school lunch vegetable.



1982

- Deaths resulted from poisoned Tylenol™.
- The Equal Rights Amendment failed to be ratified.
- The Vietnam Memorial was erected in Washington, D.C.

1983

- The United States invaded Grenada.
- 40 were killed in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.
- 241 U.S. Marines were killed in the bombing of a barracks in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Vanessa Williams became the first Black Miss America.
- Internet sites got names instead of hard-to-remember numbers.
- Sally Ride became the first American woman in space.
- ZIP+4: 9-digit ZIP codes and postal bar codes were introduced.

1984

- The Soviets and their allies boycotted the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.
- The AIDS virus was discovered.
- Geraldine Ferraro became the first female vice-presidential running mate for a major party.
- IBM, Sears, and CBS form Prodigy™.
- Portable compact disc players became available.
- The *National Geographic* cover featured a hologram.
- The 3 1/2-inch computer disk drive became available.
- Ronald Reagan was reelected in a landslide election.
- Stonewashed jeans became a national fad.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Time Line of the 1980s (cont.)

1985

- General Motors announced the installation of electronic road maps as an option on some higher-priced car models.
- The Center for Disease Control reported that more than half of all nine-year-olds in the United States showed no sign of tooth decay.
- The *Titanic* wreckage was found and filmed by robotic camera.
- Leaded gasoline was officially banned in the United States.
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened.

1986

- The Iran-Contra Scandal was reported.
- The television was on more than seven hours a day in average U.S. homes.
- The *Challenger* space shuttle exploded shortly after lift-off.
- Halley's Comet returned.
- U.S. military planes dropped bombs on Libya.
- The Statue of Liberty celebrated its 100th anniversary with a facelift.
- Turner Broadcasting began to colorize black-and-white classic movies.
- The Tax Reform Act of 1986 was passed.

1987

- Half of all U.S. homes with television had cable.
- The world population reached five billion.
- Coca-Cola™ became the #1 soft drink, pushing Pepsi-Cola™ to #2.

1988

- The first transatlantic telephone calls made over fiber-optic lines took place.
- The United States invaded Panama.
- Music CDs outsold vinyl records for the first time.
- 98% of U.S. homes had at least one television set.
- Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland; Libyan terrorists were suspected of planting the bomb.
- George Bush was elected president.

1989

- Nintendo™ racked up an annual profit of \$1 billion.
- *Voyager 2* sent back images of Neptune.
- Arsenio Hall became the first Black to host a nightly talk show.
- The *Exxon Valdez* oil disaster occurred in Alaska.
- A worldwide ban on ivory was imposed.
- Colin Powell was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest army post ever held by a Black officer.
- A major earthquake postponed the third game of the world series between the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics.