

1950s Trivia Questions

1. Who was famously known as the King of Rock and Roll?

- A. Frank Sinatra
- B. Elvis Presley
- C. Johnny Cash
- D. Chuck Berry

2. Which famous doll was introduced by Mattel in 1959?

- A. Chatty Cathy
- B. Raggedy Ann
- C. Barbie
- D. Shirley Temple

3. Which amusement park opened in Anaheim, California, in 1955?

- A. Disneyland
- B. Six Flags Magic Mountain
- C. Universal Studios Hollywood
- D. Knott's Berry Farm

4. What was the name of the first artificial satellite launched into space in 1957?

- A. Apollo 11
- B. Explorer 1
- C. Friendship 7
- D. Sputnik 1

5. Which civil rights activist refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus in 1955?

- A. Harriet Tubman
- B. Rosa Parks
- C. Maya Angelou
- D. Coretta Scott King

6. Which science-fiction television series first aired in 1959 and featured mysterious stories with unexpected twists?

- A. Star Trek
- B. Lost in Space

- C. The Twilight Zone
- D. The Outer Limits

7. Which famous singer was nicknamed Ol' Blue Eyes?

- A. Dean Martin
- B. Perry Como
- C. Bing Crosby
- D. Frank Sinatra

8. Which Dr. Seuss children's book was published in 1957?

- A. Green Eggs and Ham
- B. The Cat in the Hat
- C. Horton Hears a Who!
- D. One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish

9. What was Elvis Presley's first Billboard No. 1 hit in 1956?

- A. Hound Dog
- B. Jailhouse Rock
- C. Heartbreak Hotel
- D. Love Me Tender

10. Which U.S. satellite launched in 1958 advanced its space program?

- A. Explorer 1
- B. Voyager 1
- C. Apollo 8
- D. Skylab

11. Which television sitcom featured Lucy and Ricky Ricardo?

- A. Father Knows Best
- B. Leave It to Beaver
- C. The Donna Reed Show
- D. I Love Lucy

12. Which actor played the title character in the 1953 Western film Shane?

- A. John Wayne
- B. Alan Ladd
- C. James Stewart
- D. Gary Cooper

13. What year did Ray Kroc open his first McDonald's under his franchise system?

- A. 1948
- B. 1950
- C. 1955
- D. 1959

14. Which major civil rights protest began in Montgomery, Alabama, in December 1955?

- A. The Montgomery bus boycott
- B. The March on Washington
- C. The Selma marches
- D. The Freedom Rides

15. Which American television family starred in The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet?

- A. The Cleavers
- B. The Andersons
- C. The Ricardos
- D. The Nelsons

1950s Trivia Answer Key and Fun Facts

Stop here if you want to finish the quiz before checking your answers!

1. B — Elvis Presley.

Fun fact: Elvis became one of the most influential performers in the history of rock and roll, blending musical styles that included country and rhythm and blues.

2. C — Barbie.

Fun fact: Barbie made her debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York City on March 9, 1959.

3. A — Disneyland.

Fun fact: Walt Disney's original theme park opened on July 17, 1955, in Anaheim, California.

4. D — Sputnik 1.

Fun fact: The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1 on October 4, 1957. Its launch helped spark the Space Race.

5. B — Rosa Parks.

Fun fact: Her arrest helped inspire the Montgomery bus boycott, a major event in the American civil rights movement.

6. C — The Twilight Zone.

Fun fact: The series was created by Rod Serling and became famous for its imaginative stories and surprising endings.

7. D — Frank Sinatra.

Fun fact: Sinatra's long career included celebrated recordings, movies, and live performances. His nickname was inspired by his recognizable blue eyes.

8. B — The Cat in the Hat.

Fun fact: Dr. Seuss wrote this book using a limited vocabulary to help make reading more accessible to beginning readers.

9. C — Heartbreak Hotel.

Fun fact: Released in 1956, the song became a major milestone in Elvis Presley's recording career.

10. A — Explorer 1.

Fun fact: Launched on January 31, 1958, Explorer 1 was the first satellite successfully placed in orbit by the United States.

11. D — I Love Lucy.

Fun fact: Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz helped popularize the use of multiple film cameras before a live studio audience for television sitcoms.

12. B — Alan Ladd.

Fun fact: Shane became one of the best-known Western films of the 1950s and received several Academy Award nominations.

13. C — 1955.

Fun fact: Ray Kroc opened a McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois, in April 1955. The original McDonald's restaurant had opened earlier, in 1940.

14. A — The Montgomery bus boycott.

Fun fact: The protest lasted more than a year and ended after bus segregation was ruled unconstitutional.

15. D — The Nelsons.

Fun fact: The series featured the real-life Nelson family, including entertainer Ozzie Nelson, singer Harriet Nelson, and their sons David and Ricky.

How Did You Score?

- **13–15 correct:** You're a 1950s trivia champion!
- **10–12 correct:** You remember the decade wonderfully.
- **7–9 correct:** You've got some great memories.
- **4–6 correct:** You're warming up your vintage trivia skills.
- **0–3 correct:** Keep exploring the fascinating 1950s!

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