

Video Game History Challenge

Video Game History · Answer Key · 23 Questions

1. What was the very first commercially successful arcade video game, released in 1972, that featured a simple two-paddle tennis simulation?

- A) Space Invaders
- B) Pac-Man
- C) Pong**
- D) Asteroids

2. Which company developed the Atari 2600, a groundbreaking home video game console that popularized the use of interchangeable game cartridges in the late 1970s?

- A) Nintendo
- B) Sega
- C) Magnavox
- D) Atari**

3. Before becoming a famous game character, Mario first appeared in which 1981 arcade game as 'Jumpman'?

- A) Donkey Kong**
- B) Galaga
- C) Centipede
- D) Defender

4. The first widely recognized home computer with built-in graphics capabilities that allowed for popular early video games was the:

- A) IBM PC
- B) Apple II**
- C) Commodore 64
- D) ZX Spectrum

5. Which iconic 1980 arcade game featured a yellow, circular character eating dots and avoiding ghosts?

- A) Donkey Kong
- B) Frogger
- C) Pac-Man**
- D) Galaga

6. What was the name of the first handheld video game console with interchangeable cartridges, released by Nintendo in 1989?

- A) Game Boy**
- B) Game Gear
- C) Atari Lynx
- D) Neo Geo Pocket

7. The 'Video Game Crash of 1983' significantly impacted the North American market. Which company's console eventually helped revive the industry with its quality control and popular titles?

- A) Atari
- B) Coleco
- C) Mattel
- D) Nintendo**

8. What revolutionary 1991 game, released for the Super Nintendo Entertainment System, introduced a four-player simultaneous mode and a vibrant, colorful world?

- A) The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past
- B) Super Mario Kart**
- C) Super Metroid
- D) Super Mario World

9. Which early computer game, developed in 1973, is considered one of the first graphical adventure games and involved exploring a maze and collecting treasures?

- A) Zork
- B) Colossal Cave Adventure**
- C) Ultima
- D) Wizardry

10. The Sega Genesis (known as the Mega Drive outside North America) competed fiercely with Nintendo's Super NES in the early 1990s. What was the name of Sega's speedy blue hedgehog mascot introduced to rival Mario?

- A) Tails
- B) Knuckles
- C) Sonic**
- D) Shadow

11. What innovative 1978 arcade game, developed by Taito, featured descending aliens and a simple laser cannon that players controlled?

- A) Galaxian
- B) Defender
- C) Space Invaders**
- D) Asteroids

12. The first home video game console ever released, in 1972, was the:

- A) Atari 2600
- B) ColecoVision
- C) Magnavox Odyssey**
- D) Intellivision

13. What 1980s computer game, known for its complex strategy and role-playing elements, featured a vast open world and often involved the player character ascending through experience levels?

- A) King's Quest
- B) Ultima**
- C) The Bard's Tale
- D) Dungeon Master

14. Which groundbreaking 1985 Nintendo game introduced the world to platforming excellence, power-ups like the Super Mushroom, and a persistent villain named Bowser?

- A) The Legend of Zelda
- B) Metroid
- C) Super Mario Bros.**
- D) Donkey Kong Country

15. The iconic 'Konami Code' (Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B, A, Start) first gained widespread popularity in which 1986 NES game?

- A) Contra**
- B) Gadius
- C) Castlevania
- D) Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

16. What was the name of the first commercially successful home console that used CD-ROM technology for its games, released by Sony in 1994?

- A) Sega Saturn
- B) Nintendo 64
- C) PlayStation**
- D) 3DO Interactive Multiplayer

17. Which influential 1993 first-person shooter game, developed by id Software, popularized the genre with its fast-paced action and groundbreaking 3D graphics?

- A) Wolfenstein 3D
- B) Duke Nukem 3D
- C) Doom**
- D) Quake

18. What was the primary input device used in the original 1972 arcade game 'Pong'?

- A) A joystick
- B) A trackball
- C) A paddle controller**
- D) A gamepad

19. The first game to feature a scrolling background, allowing for continuous movement, is often considered to be:

- A) Space Invaders
- B) Defender**
- C) Pac-Man
- D) Donkey Kong

20. Which 1980 arcade game challenged players to navigate a spaceship through an asteroid field, destroying them to score points?

- A) Tempest
- B) Asteroids**
- C) Gravitar
- D) Battlezone

21. What technology did the Magnavox Odyssey, released in 1972, primarily use to display its 'graphics' on a television screen?

- A) Built-in screen
- B) Overlays placed on the TV screen**
- C) CRT technology
- D) LCD panels

22. The creation of the first known computer game, 'Tennis for Two,' in 1958 is credited to:

- A) Nolan Bushnell
- B) William Higinbotham**
- C) Al Alcorn
- D) Shigeru Miyamoto

23. Which handheld console, released by Atari in 1977, was one of the first to feature a color display and interchangeable cartridges?

A) Game & Watch

B) Atari Lynx

C) Game Gear

D) Microvision