Milestones in Toy History

Toy History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which company is credited with manufacturing the first-ever mass-produced jigsaw puzzle in the 1760s, created by John Spilsbury?

A) Parker Brothers
B) Milton Bradley
C) John Spilsbury & Co.
D) Thomas Jefferys

2. In 1943, Richard James accidentally discovered the Slinky while attempting to develop springs to stabilize sensitive instruments on ships for which organization?

A) The U.S. Navy
B) NASA
C) The British Royal Air Force
D) General Electric

3. Before its modern plastic form, the Slinky's inventor used high-carbon blue-black Swedish steel. What was the original weight of the first prototype?

A) 1 pound
B) 0.5 pounds
C) 2.5 pounds
D) 4 ounces

4. The Etch A Sketch was originally invented in the late 1950s by André Cassagnes under what original product name?

A) Telecran
B) Magic Screen
C) Drawing Pad
D) L'Ecran Magique

5. Who holds the patent for the first version of the 'Hula Hoop' produced in the United States, which sparked a massive fad in 1958?

A) Arthur K. 'Spud' Melin
B) Richard Knerr
C) Olin Mills
D) Wham-O founders

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6. The first commercially successful board game in America, 'The Mansion of Happiness,' was published in which decade?

A) 1790s
B) 1840s
C) 1860s
D) 1910s

7. What material was used for the earliest known 'Mr. Potato Head' toy components in 1952, before plastic became the standard?

A) Wood
B) Pressed cardboard
C) Real vegetables
D) Cork

8. The 'Barbie' doll, debuted in 1959, was modeled after which pre-existing German adult novelty doll named Bild Lilli?

A) Bild Lilli
B) Greta Garbo
C) Brunhilde
D) Fräulein Barbie

9. In 1938, Alfred Mosher Butts invented the game Scrabble under which original name?

A) Lexiko
B) Criss-Cross Words
C) Word-Up
D) Alpha-Bet

10. Which company pioneered the 'interlocking brick' design in 1949, inspired by Kiddicraft Self-Locking Building Bricks?

A) LEGO
B) Meccano
C) Fisher-Price
D) Tyco

11. The first 'Action Figure' was marketed in 1964 by Hasbro. What was the name of the original prototype figure before it was officially dubbed G.I. Joe?

A) Rocky
B) Skip
C) Ace
D) Commandant

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12. What was the first toy ever to be advertised on television, beginning in 1952?

A) Mr. Potato Head
B) Slinky
C) Yo-yo
D) Easy-Bake Oven

13. The Rubik's Cube, invented in 1974, was originally named what by its creator Erno Rubik?

A) Magic Cube
B) Logic Sphere
C) Spatial Puzzle
D) Polyhedron Toy

14. What was the first mass-marketed electronic handheld game, released by Milton Bradley in 1978?

A) Simon
B) Bop It
C) Merlin
D) Electronic Battleship

15. The 'Silly Putty' compound was discovered by James Wright in 1943 while attempting to create a synthetic alternative for which material?

A) Rubber
B) Cotton
C) Wool
D) Silk

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