

80s Music Quiz

Questions with the answers

4 rounds · 34 questions

6 audio questions are play-online only and left off this sheet. The 34 questions below are numbered 1–34.

ROUND 1

1980s Pop Icons

- Which 1984 musical film starred Prince as 'The Kid' and produced the hit 'When Doves Cry'?**
| ANSWER **Purple Rain**
NOTE Purple Rain won the Academy Award for Best Original Song Score.
- Which singer became the first artist in Billboard history to have seven consecutive #1 hits, starting in the mid-1980s?**
| ANSWER **Whitney Houston**
NOTE Her debut self-titled album became the best-selling debut album by a female artist at the time.
- Which flamboyant frontman of Culture Club led the band to fame with 'Karma Chameleon'?**
| ANSWER **Boy George**
NOTE Boy George's androgynous style made him a defining visual icon of the New Romantic movement.
- Which colorful 80s pop star sang the empowerment anthem 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun'?**
| ANSWER **Cyndi Lauper**
NOTE Lauper won the Grammy for Best New Artist in 1985.
- Which singer left the duo Wham! to launch a hugely successful solo career with the 1987 album 'Faith'?**
| ANSWER **George Michael**
NOTE The title track 'Faith' topped the Billboard Hot 100 in 1987.
- Which veteran rock-soul singer staged a massive career comeback with her 1984 album 'Private Dancer'?**
| ANSWER **Tina Turner**
NOTE 'Private Dancer' included her hit 'What's Love Got to Do with It'.
- Which British band, icons of the MTV era, had hits like 'Hungry Like the Wolf' and 'Rio'?**
| ANSWER **Duran Duran**
NOTE Their exotic music videos, often shot in tropical locations, were staples of early MTV.

8. Which striking, androgynous frontwoman sang 'Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)' with Eurythmics?

| ANSWER Annie Lennox

NOTE Lennox's flat-top orange hairstyle in the video became instantly iconic.

9. Which singer co-wrote 'We Are the World' with Michael Jackson for USA for Africa in 1985?

| ANSWER Lionel Richie

NOTE The 'We Are the World' session brought together over 45 major artists in one studio night.

80s New Wave and Synth-Pop

10. Which English band, formed in Basildon in 1980, became synth-pop icons with hits like 'Just Can't Get Enough' and later 'Enjoy the Silence'?

| ANSWER Depeche Mode

NOTE Vince Clarke left after their debut album to form Yazoo, then Erasure.

11. Which British solo artist and former Tubeway Army frontman had a robotic-sounding 1979 hit called 'Cars'?

| ANSWER Gary Numan

NOTE Numan was one of the first mainstream artists to build a hit almost entirely around a Minimoog riff.

12. Which Manchester band, formed from the ashes of Joy Division, blended rock and dance on the 1983 single 'Blue Monday'?

| ANSWER New Order

NOTE Its distinctive sleeve, designed like a floppy disk, was so costly to produce that Factory reportedly lost money on every copy sold.

13. Which Sheffield band topped charts worldwide in 1981 with the synth-pop love triangle anthem 'Don't You Want Me'?

| ANSWER The Human League

NOTE Frontman Phil Oakey famously recruited two backing singers after spotting them dancing in a Sheffield club.

14. Which New York art-rock band, led by David Byrne, brought new wave into avant-garde territory with the 1980 track 'Once in a Lifetime'?

| ANSWER Talking Heads

NOTE The jerky choreography in the video was inspired by Japanese Bunraku puppetry and Byrne's own seizure-like dance experiments.

15. Which English band led by Robert Smith mixed gloomy gothic textures with pop hooks on songs like 'Just Like Heaven'?

| ANSWER The Cure

NOTE Robert Smith's messy hair and smeared lipstick look became a defining goth-rock aesthetic.

16. Which quirky Ohio band, known for matching red 'energy dome' hats, released the new wave classic 'Whip It' in 1980?

| ANSWER Devo

NOTE Their name comes from their satirical concept of 'de-evolution' of society.

17. Which British band, famous almost as much for their gravity-defying hairstyle as their music, hit big in 1982 with 'I Ran (So Far Away)'?

| ANSWER A Flock of Seagulls

NOTE Frontman Mike Score was a hairdresser before forming the band, which explains the elaborate coiffure.

1980s Rock Anthems

18. Which Guns N' Roses track, famous for its ringing guitar intro, opens their 1987 debut album 'Appetite for Destruction'?

| ANSWER Welcome to the Jungle

19. Which Van Halen frontman fronted the band for its biggest 1980s hits before being replaced by Sammy Hagar?

| ANSWER David Lee Roth

20. Which Twisted Sister anthem became a defiant answer to the question 'What do you want to do with your life?'?

| ANSWER We're Not Gonna Take It

21. Which Swedish band's soaring keyboard riff powers their 1986 global smash 'The Final Countdown'?

| ANSWER Europe

22. Which Survivor anthem became forever linked to Rocky Balboa after featuring in 'Rocky III'?

| ANSWER Eye of the Tiger

23. Which British-American band's 1984 power ballad asks the question 'I Want to Know What Love Is'?

| ANSWER Foreigner

24. Which Whitesnake anthem, backed by a famous MTV video on a car hood, was a 1987 reworking of one of their own earlier songs?

| ANSWER Here I Go Again

80s One-Hit Wonders

25. Which British reggae group of teenagers had a massive 1982 hit with 'Pass the Dutchie'?

| ANSWER Musical Youth

26. Which Austrian singer topped the US charts in 1986 with 'Rock Me Amadeus'?

| ANSWER Falco

27. Which duo had a surprise 1986 hit with the deceptively upbeat 'The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades'?

| ANSWER Timbuk 3

28. Which German singer and band had a global 1983 hit protest song called '99 Luftballons'?

| ANSWER Nena

29. Which British-American band had a joyful 1985 smash with 'Walking on Sunshine'?

| ANSWER Katrina and the Waves

30. Which Canadian band's signature dance-craze hit was 1982's 'The Safety Dance'?

| ANSWER Men Without Hats

31. Which vocal artist, singing entirely a cappella, topped the charts in 1988 with 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'?

| ANSWER Bobby McFerrin

32. Which Italian act delivered the bouncy 1985 novelty hit 'Tarzan Boy'?

| ANSWER Baltimora

33. Which British musician had his biggest hit with the quirky synth track 'She Blinded Me with Science' in 1982?

| ANSWER Thomas Dolby

34. Which American band had a lasting hit with the phone-number chant '867-5309/Jenny' in 1981?

| ANSWER Tommy Tutone
