

What vintage gadgets do you know?

Before you start, answer the following questions

Do you know any iconic inventions from the 1980s? Which one/s?

Do you like computers? What do you like about them? What do you know about the history of personal computers?



Pista: Recordá que al final de la ficha encontrarás la **clave de respuestas** de las actividades para revisar tu trabajo.

1. Which image best represents the gadget* described? Match pictures (1-4) with descriptions (a-c) taken from a dictionary of vintage gadgets. There is an extra picture.

*Gadget: a small piece of equipment that does a particular job.
Source: Cambridge dictionary.



1.



2.



3.



4.

- In 1979, a Japanese company launched a portable media player that allowed people to listen to music on the move by inserting a cassette inside. *Picture number* ___
 - In 1974, the famous Hungarian sculptor and professor Ernő Rubik invented a 3-D combination puzzle. Its first name was the Magic Cube. Later, it became Rubik's Cube. *Picture number* ___
 - The industry of this gadget boomed in the 1980s. This machine allowed people to record and play TV programmes or films on videocassettes. *Picture number* ___
2. In the 1980s, there was a close connection between the following objects. Tick the right explanation (a, b, or c).



- DJs cleaned cassettes with a pen.
- Some people used a pen to hit the cassette when the tape got stuck.
- Most people inserted a pen into one of the holes of the cassette and rotated it to rewind the tape.

Pista: Antes de realizar una actividad de comprensión lectora como la actividad que sigue, te sugerimos que primero leas el texto completo para tener una idea general.

3. Personal computers became popular during the '80s thanks to the contribution of programmers such as Bill Gates. Read the following facts taken from Bill Gates's biography and complete the gaps with these verbs: was - were - wrote - began - grew up - enrolled - didn't want - introduced - coordinated.

Early Life

Bill Gates _____ (a) born on October 28, 1955, in Seattle, USA. He grew up (b) in a loving family with his parents and his two sisters. The Gates family atmosphere was very warm and all three children _____ (c) excellent students. Gates showed early signs of competitiveness when he _____ (d) family athletic games at their summer house. He was also good at playing board games like Monopoly.



Education

Gates loved reading books when he was a child. He spent many hours reading reference books such as the encyclopedia. Around the age of 11 or 12, Bill's parents _____ (e) to worry about his behaviour. He looked bored all the time, so his parents decided to find a new school for him, and he started to feel better. At 13, he joined a computer club and _____ (f) a tic-tac-toe* programme in computer language to play against the computer.

His Dream

Gates _____ (g) at Harvard University in 1975 to become a lawyer like his dad, but he quit two years later. His real dream was to start his own company, Microsoft, with his childhood friend and partner Paul Allen. In November 1985, Gates and Microsoft launched Windows. Four years later, Microsoft _____ (h) Microsoft Office with the soon popular office productivity applications such as Microsoft Word and Excel.

Charity Work

In February 2014, Gates announced that he _____ (i) to continue as Microsoft's chairman. He wanted to focus on charitable work at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates's Foundation aims to fight poverty, disease, and inequity around the world.

Adapted from Bill Gates's biography on www.biography.com

* Tic-Tac-Toe: Ta-Te-Tí

4. Read the text again and answer the following questions:

a. Did Bill Gates have a good relationship with his parents?

b. Was Bill Gates's father an engineer?


c. When did Bill Gates start university?

d. Did Bill Gates meet Paul Allen at university?

e. What is the purpose of Bill Gates's foundation?

Before you finish

Choose a famous person you admire and write a short biography. You can use these titles to organize the paragraphs: Early life - Childhood - Adulthood - Becoming famous - Life at the moment (if the person is still alive). You can also include pictures of the person.

 **Pista:** Para organizar el **proceso de escritura**, te sugerimos que dividas tu trabajo por etapas hasta llegar a la producción final. Por ejemplo, podés comenzar tomando nota de algunas ideas sobre el tema que vas a escribir, y luego empezar a redactar los borradores hasta llegar a la producción final.

Further practice

Watch the following TED-TALK



Inside a computer, Bettina Bair
TED-Ed
<https://bit.ly/3tKE5lx>

Escaneá este código para acceder al contenido.



Keys for correction 1) a.4; b.1; c.2. 2) c. 3) a. was c. were d. coordinated e. began f. wrote g. enrolled h. introduced i. didn't want 4) a.Yes, he did b. No, he wasn't c. In 1975 d. No, he didn't. e. To fight poverty, disease, and inequity around the world.