

Microsoft

The computer software company known as Microsoft was started by Bill Gates and Paul Allen on April 4th, 1975. Paul quit his job and Bill dropped out of Harvard University to start the company. They made \$16,000 in sales in their first year of business. In 1978, just three years later, sales were around \$1 million. Although the company was started in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Bill and Paul both grew up near Seattle, Washington and they decided to move the company closer to home just a few years after its creation. The name Microsoft is a combination of the words microprocessor and software, two important terms in the world of computers.

In 1981 Microsoft created an operating system for IBM's first personal computer. It was called Microsoft Disk Operation System or MS-DOS for short. Users typed commands onto the screen in order to run programs on the computer. Four years later Windows 1.0 was released. This operating system featuring images for users to click on and open. It was a revolutionary idea. Unfortunately, Paul Allen would leave the company before the release of Windows 1.0 due to serious health problems. His health would eventually improve and he would have a successful business career with other companies outside of Microsoft.

In 1986, just one year after the release of Windows 1.0, Microsoft became a public company available on the stock exchange. Stock prices were \$21 a share and the Microsoft instantly became the world's most valuable company, worth \$61 million. The same year they moved their headquarters from Bellevue to Redmond, Washington and would soon be known as having the highest sales of any computer company in the world.

Microsoft's success continued and in 1995 they released Windows 95 which featured the now famous "Start" button. 7 million copies were sold in 5 weeks. Internet Explorer was also released at this time as the age of the internet was just beginning. Stock prices rose to \$58.72 a share in 1999 and the company was valued at \$620 billion. It was the first software company in history to achieve such a value.

In recent years, Microsoft has entered markets outside of personal computers, including video gaming, mobile devices, and tablet PCs. The X-Box, a video gaming console, was released in 2001 while the second version, the X-Box 360, was released in 2005. Both consoles competed against the PlayStation 2 and 3 and were very successful in the United States. Windows has also tried to compete with Android and Apple for a share of the mobile phone market. Microsoft even bought Skype in 2011 as a response to the success of Apple FaceTime. In addition, the "Microsoft Surface" tablet PC which was first released in 2012 and has received great success as it continues to be updated and improved.

Source: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/microsoft-founded>

Vocab Match

Name: _____

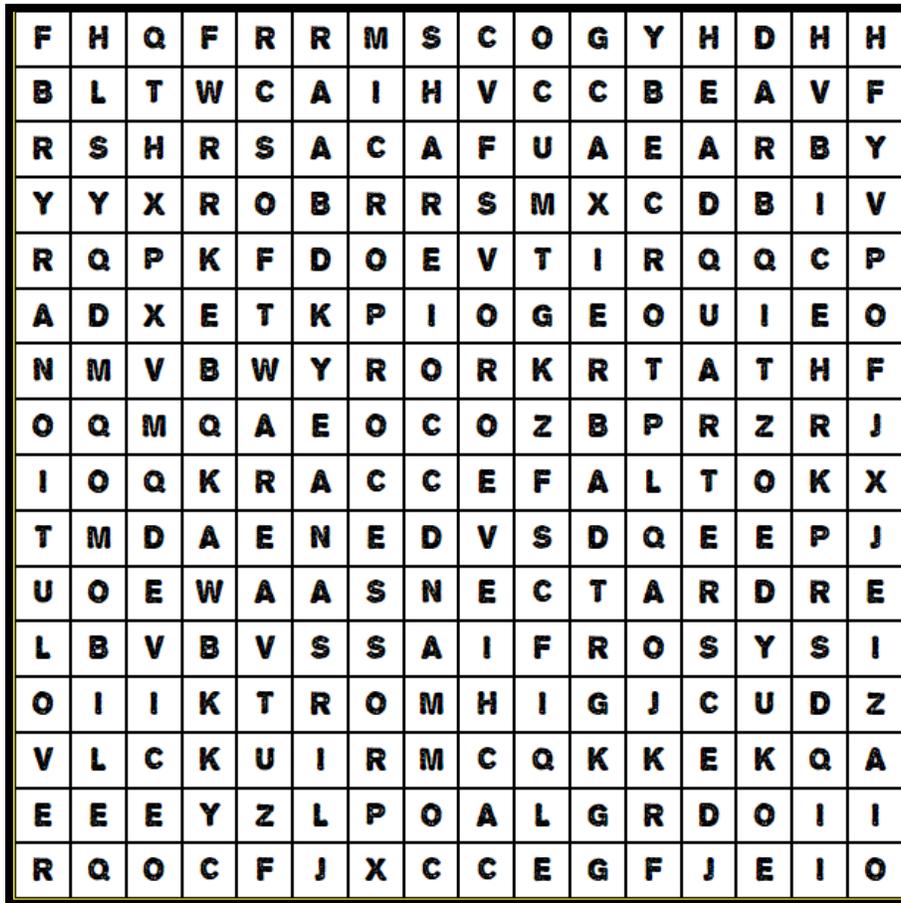
Word	Answer	Definition
1. software	1. ____	a. noun- a piece of ownership of a company
2. microprocessor	2. ____	b. noun- act of giving order
3. operating system	3. ____	c. noun- cellphone/smartphone
4. command	4. ____	d. verb- finish successfully
5. revolutionary	5. ____	e. noun- a place where stocks are sold
6. stock/share	6. ____	f. noun- center of business for a company
7. stock exchange	7. ____	g. noun- computer circuit
8. headquarters	8. ____	h. noun- main software that controls computer operations
9. achieve	9. ____	i. adj- new idea that changes many things
10. mobile device	10. ____	j. noun- computer program

Discussion Topics

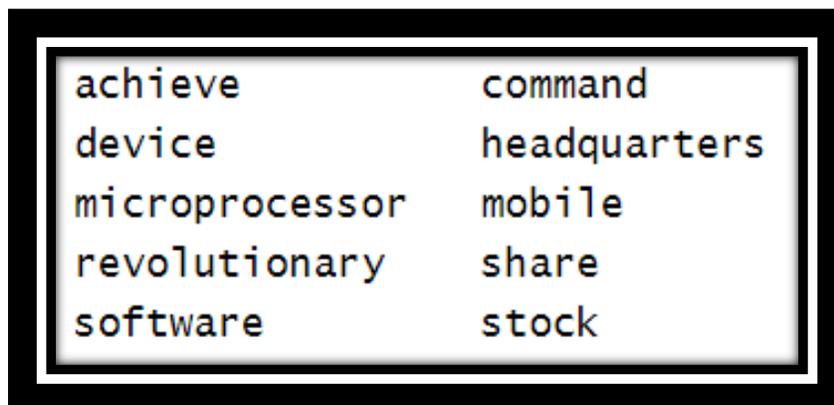
1. Do you own a personal computer? What brand is it? Do you like this brand?
2. How much time do you spend on your phone or computer each day?
3. What video games do you play?
4. Do you think it's a good idea to buy stock market stocks?
5. What do you think computers will look like in 30 years?

Name: _____

Microsoft



Find these words!



Name: _____

Quiz

1) What did Bill Gates do before starting Microsoft?

a. left Harvard b. went for a run c. got a loan d. went to India

2) Where did Bill Gates and Paul Allen grow up?

a. near Seattle, Washington b. near Silicon Valley, California c. near Albuquerque, New Mexico
d. near San Francisco, California

3) Where does the name Microsoft come from?

a. small computer pieces b. Chinese electronics soft c. Microprocessor and software d. Small soft cream

4) What does MS-DOS stand for?

a. Microsoft Desk Operating System b. Mini Software Does Operations Science c. Microsoft Disk Operation System d. Micro SD Office

5) How much did one share of Microsoft stock cost in 1986?

a. \$35 b. \$43 c. \$21 d. \$10

6) What year did Microsoft move to Redmond, Washington?

a. 1995 b. 1988 c. 1978 d. 1985

7) How many copies of Windows 95 were sold in the first 5 weeks?

a. 6 million b. 7 million c. 8 million d. 5 million

8) How much was Microsoft worth in 1999?

a. 62 billion b. 620 million c. 620 billion d. 62 million

9) When was the first Microsoft X-Box released?

a. 2011 b. 2001 c. 2005 d. 2003

10) Why did Microsoft buy Skype?

a. because of Windows Phone failure b. because of a computer error c. because of Android success d. because of FaceTime success

Key

Matching	Quiz
1. j	1. a
2. g	2. a
3. h	3. c
4. b	4. c
5. i	5. c
6. a	6. d
7. e	7. b
8. f	8. c
9. d	9. b
10. c	10. d

PROJECT:

Students design a computer of the future. What will it have? What will it do? What will it look like?