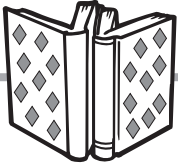


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Bill Gates, Inventor and Humanitarian

Have you ever played on an Xbox 360®? If so, thank Bill Gates. His company invented it. Bill was born in 1955. Back then, computers were huge. It took a whole building to house one! And they cost a lot. Just the government and a few colleges had them. But Bill went to a school that had access to a computer by phone lines. The computer thrilled Bill and his friend, Paul Allen. When Bill was in eleventh grade, a company hired the boys. They fixed its software (programs). They were “paid” with free time on the computer.

The teens graduated. Then, they went to college. Neither one finished. They dropped out. They formed a company. Its name is Microsoft®. Their company wrote programs to make computers do math or word processing. They worked hard to make computers user-friendly. Their programs changed the world and helped to put computers in most American homes.



Bill Gates

It all began in 1975. Bill and Paul saw an ad. It was for a computer called the Altair®. It was almost useless. There was no real way for a user to tell it what to do! So Bill did something crazy. He called Altair’s makers. He told them that he had a BASIC® program. It could tell the Altair what to do. Bill did not even own an Altair! And he didn’t have the program. The company asked to see his product. So Bill worked night and day for a month. At last, he had the program ready. Paul took it to the company. Bill and Paul didn’t even know if it would work. But it did work—perfectly.

The pair left college. They got to work. Major companies asked for their help. Everyone saw that computers were the wave of the future. Yet few people knew how to make them do things. One big company,

IBM®, came to Microsoft and asked for an operating system for its computers. Bill bought another company’s operating system for \$50,000. He modified it and had IBM put it on their machines. Each time a machine sold, Bill got part of the profits. He made millions of dollars in the first year. His program, named MS-DOS®, became the operating system for most computers. Later, Microsoft invented Windows® and then Internet Explorer®. It created Word®, Excel®, and PowerPoint®. Many of the programs you use on the computer came from Microsoft.

In 1983, Paul Allen had cancer. He left the company. He got better. The men are still friends. In 1994, Bill got married. Now, he has three children. He stopped doing the day-to-day running of Microsoft in 2000. He became the chairman of the board. In 2008, he let go of more control. He wanted to spend more time with his family and do charity work. Since Bill owns a lot of the company’s stock, he still has a major say in the things that go on.

By the age of thirty-three, Bill was a billionaire. He is one of the richest men on Earth. He and his wife want to share their wealth. They plan to give away 98 percent of it. They formed the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000. It gives money to **charities**. It tries to improve people’s health and education. One of its goals is to give children vaccines. This will keep them from dying.



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After the teens graduated, they went to college. However, neither one finished. They dropped out to form a company. Its name is Microsoft®. Their company wrote programs to make computers do tasks, such as word processing or math problems. They worked hard to make computers user-friendly. Their programs changed the world and helped to put computers in most American homes.



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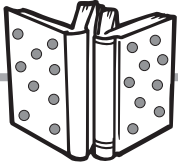
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In 1983, Paul Allen left the company. He had cancer and didn't want to work anymore. He made a full recovery, and the men remain friends. In 1994, Bill got married. Now, he has three children. He stepped down from the day-to-day running of Microsoft in 2000. He took the position of chairman of the board. In 2008, he let go of more control. He wanted to spend more time with his family and do charity work. However, since Bill owns a lot of the company's stock, he still has a major say in the things that go on.

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Bill and Paul went to college, but neither one finished. They dropped out to form a company named Microsoft®. Their company wrote programs to make computers do tasks, such as word processing or math calculations. They worked hard to make computers user-friendly. Their programs changed the world and helped to put computers in most American homes.



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Bill Gates, Inventor and Humanitarian

Directions: Darken the best answer choice.

1. Bill Gates and Paul Allen invented the
 - (A) first computer.
 - (B) Altair® computer.
 - (C) Windows® operating system.
 - (D) Internet.

2. The word **charities** means
 - (A) new computer companies.
 - (B) children’s hospitals.
 - (C) colleges.
 - (D) groups that help people in need.

3. Which event occurred second?
 - (A) Bill created the MS-DOS® operating system.
 - (B) Bill started his own company.
 - (C) Bill became a billionaire.
 - (D) Bill and his wife set up a foundation to help good causes.

4. Microsoft® did *not* invent the
 - (A) software program called PowerPoint®.
 - (B) Google™ search engine.
 - (C) Internet Explorer® search engine.
 - (D) Xbox 360®.

5. Think about Bill and the Altair computer. You can tell that he is
 - (A) impatient.
 - (B) shy.
 - (C) bold.
 - (D) quiet.

6. Bill Gates changed the world because he
 - (A) designed software that let average people use computers.
 - (B) made computers much smaller.
 - (C) set up a program to teach all American children to use a computer.
 - (D) funded the research that found the cure for cancer.