**1976 Trivia**

The year 1976 was a special one in history, for business and sports, and certainly in pop culture. Perhaps the biggest celebration came that July when the country celebrated its 200th birthday. Apple computers arrived on the scene and an underdog named Rocky Balboa thrilled moviegoers for what would be generations to come.

Things were happening at the College, as well. That year, Ramapo College received its initial US Department of Education grant designed to provide academic and other support services for students for disabilities. Then-Senator Bill Bradley visited the campus to dedicate the former athletic center and later made his first public speech as a senator in the Ramapo College gym. (The Bill Bradley Sports and Recreation Center would open in 2003.)

So, how much do you know about 1976?

1. **Who was the first-ever athlete to receive perfect scores in Olympics competition?**

Olga Korbut, Nadia Comaneci, Dorothy Hamill

1. **How much did the first Apple computer sell for when it was introduced in 1976?**

$252.52, $666.66, $1800

1. **What was significant about the U.S. quarter that year?**

It was colorized; it was minted with the dates 1776-1976; the image of Thomas Jefferson was on it

1. **What changed about M&M candies?**

There were no red M&Ms; the company added a yellow M&M; the company introduced the mini size

1. **How much did a one-minute TV ad cost for the Super Bowl?**

$250,000; $1 million, $110,000

1. **What piece of office equipment was invented in 1976?**

Ink-jet printer; fax machine; touch-button phones

1. **What was the year’s most popular television show?**

Happy Days, MASH, All in the Family

1. **Which film star guest-starred on Sesame Street with unexpected and unpleasant consequences?**

Jimmy Stewart, Margaret Hamilton, Orson Wells

1. **What accomplishment did NASA record that year?**

Successful four-man moon landing; spacecraft landed safely on Mars; satellite recorded activity on Mercury

1. **Who was posthumously promoted to the rank of six-star general during the bicentennial?**

George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower

**ANSWERS:**

1. Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci earned seven perfect scores of 10 in the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal. She was the first-ever to do so. As a sidenote, Canada is the only host country in history not to win a gold medal in their own Summer Olympic Games.

2. Founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak sold the first Apple computer for $666.66. As a side note, Ronald Wayne was the third co-founder but he sold his 10% share that year for $800. Today those shares would be worth $35 billion.

3. The United States Mint did not issue a quarter in 1975 or 1976 with those dates. Instead, in honor of the bicentennial, quarters were minted instead with the dates 1776-1976.

4. The Mars candy company eliminated the red M&Ms for a decade, from 1976-1986. This decision came as a result of public controversy surrounding a synthetic dye called FD&C Red No. 2, also known as amaranth. The dye was used in red food coloring and was linked to cancer in a 1971 Russian study. The company replaced the red candy with an orange one, and said that the dye in question was not used for the candies. Mars reintroduced the red candy ten years later when the panic about anything red in food had passed.

5. A one-minute TV ad for the Super Bowl cost $110,000 at that time. In 2021, a 30-second ad cost a whopping $5.6 million.

6. The first ink-jet printer was introduced by Hewlett-Packard in 1976. But ink-jet printers didn’t gain popularity until the mid-1980s.

7. Richie Cunningham, the Fonz and the gang were America’s TV sweethearts on Happy Days, which aired on ABC-TV. The original run, which aired from 1974-1984, included 255 episodes, which can still be viewed in reruns on a number of channels.

8. Margaret Hamilton reprised her role as the Wicked Witch of the West from the Wizard of Oz on Sesame Street’s episode 847. It frightened children so much that the episode has never been re-aired. Hamilton, who starred in many films in the early days of Hollywood, admitted in an interview that it was her favorite all-time role and she often dressed the part when children came to her door trick-or-treating on Halloween.

9. NASA’s Viking 1 Lander spacecraft arrived safely on Mars on July 20, 1976. It was launched on August 20 in 1975, exactly 11 months earlier.

10. As part of the Bicentennial, George Washington was posthumously promoted to the rank of six-star general, an honor bestowed so that he would outrank any other general in the United States.