

1. Why does Peter Jennings call the 1980s “a decade of revolution and renewal?”
2. What was unique about the 1980s? How did this decade differ from the 1970s or the 1990s?
3. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated in 1982 amidst controversy and protest. Why was the “Wall” so controversial? How has the Wall helped America come to terms with the Vietnam War?
4. Why do people leave momentos and trinkets at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall?
5. America elected Ronald Reagan to the presidency in 1980. What was the appeal of this man? Why was Reagan one of the most popular presidents of the twentieth century?
6. A devastating new drug, crack cocaine, made its appearance in the 1980s. What were the effects of this drug, particularly in urban areas?
7. What were the principles of Reaganomics? Did these economic policies work?
8. Discuss the impact of personal computers in the 1980s on American life and culture.
9. In 1986, the space shuttle *Challenger* exploding killing the entire crew and a New Hampshire teacher, Christa McAuliffe. What was the impact of this terrible tragedy?
10. Television and religion blended together in the 1980s with the rise of televangelism. What was the appeal of televangelism? What happened to some of the leading televangelists of the decade?
11. Discuss the discovery and evolution of the AIDS epidemic in America. How did this disease change American social habits?

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