

"Pirates of Silicon Valley" Film Questionnaire

NAME _____

As you watch the film, look for answers to the following questions. Try to answer as many as possible. This worksheet is due _____

1. Who originally owned the rights to the computer Steve Wozniak made, and why did they not take advantage of it?
2. What was the first computer that Bill Gates and Paul Allen tried to write software for? What did they write?
3. Which company made the first large investment in Apple Computer?
4. Did Microsoft invent the Disk Operating System? Briefly explain the deal Microsoft made with IBM concerning DOS.
5. Who invented the first mouse-driven graphical user interface?
6. What was the name of the first computer made by Apple that had a graphical interface?
(Hint: it's not the Macintosh)

Characters



Steve Jobs - Founder of Apple Computer

Steve is a charismatic character that believes computers are as much things of art as of science. He goes from making computers in a garage to being head of a company determined to dethrone IBM from its position as leader of the computer world. To Steve, IBM is a dinosaur and people who wear suits have no place at his firm because they remind him of old corporate types like IBM employees. In the movie Steve struggles with his desire to succeed and his erratic moods. Steve refuses to recognize his own daughter Lisa and give her much attention for many years. But decides to later name a computer, the Lisa after her.



Bill Gates - Founder of Microsoft

In the film Bill is characterized as a geeky computer nerd who can't get girls and whose only friends are other computer techies. Bill is a strategist and even in simple games like Poker it shows. When opportunity presents itself Bill along with two of his buddies form their own company Microsoft to go after the software market that Bill believes will be the real profit center of the future. With a cheap operating system named DOS which is licensed nonexclusively to IBM the fuels of software growth are born. When IBM adopts DOS all other non IBM clones also adopt it, and it becomes a defacto standard. In the film Bill collaborates and later steals technology from Apple. The war of Windows vs Mac plays itself out in the personal battle between Bill Gates and Steve Jobs.



Steve Wozniak Co founder of Apple Computer

This is Steve Jobs right hand man and a technical whiz. Before helping to form Apple computers, Wozniak or Woz as he is commonly known by friends worked with Steve Jobs in 1974 at Atari Inc. There they designed the infamous breakout video game. In the film Woz is much more interested in the science and technology of Apple than he is in the business angle which Steve Jobs masters.



Steve Ballmer - Cofounder Microsoft and Current CEO of Microsoft

In the film Steve is portrayed as Bill Gates right hand man. Quick to understand the value of good information he buys an operating system from a recluse which becomes the famous DOS operating system and he eagerly enjoys planning how Microsoft will go after Apple. In real life Ballmer is now the current CEO of Microsoft. His style of management is an active one and he is famous for being really loud and very physical in his motivational speeches