

HIV, a new and frightening virus which can lead to AIDS, appeared in the early 1980s.

The computer game Pac-Man came out in 1980.

Iraq and Iran were at war from 1980 until 1998.

Strikes broke out all over Poland, heralding the end of the communist regime. Lech Wałęsa formed Solidarity, the first trade union in a communist country. He later became president of Poland and received the Nobel Peace Prize.

SOLIDARNOŚĆ

Cassettes gave people a way to make mix tapes or compilations. They got a new lease of life after the launch of the Sony Walkman in 1979.

MTV began broadcasting music videos in 1981.

Rubik's cube, a puzzle, was all the rage.

The president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, introduced glasnost ("openness") and perestroika ("restructuring"). These measures led to the end of the Soviet Republic. Gorbachev received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Prince Charles of England married Diana Spencer in 1981. They divorced 10 years later.

In 1982 Steven Spielberg made the film ET, about an alien who wants to go home.

In 1984 British mine workers went on strike for nearly a year in protest against the closing of state mines.

COAL NOT DOLE

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In 1986, at Chernobyl in Ukraine—then part of the Soviet Union—a nuclear reactor exploded with disastrous consequences for the environment and local people.

The Berlin Wall fell in 1989, then the rest of the Iron Curtain crumbled. One by one, communist regimes toppled or allowed democratic elections.

Music could be played anywhere with a boombox.

The first PCs or personal computers, appeared.

# LIVE AID

Live Aid, a benefit concert for famine relief in Ethiopia, was held in 1985.

In 1988 Libyan terrorists brought down an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Student-led protests for economic and political reform, held in Tiananmen Square in China in 1989, were met with a violent crackdown by the Chinese military.

The video game Tetris could be played on the Game Boy, released in 1989.

The shipwreck of the oil tanker Exxon Valdez in 1989 caused an environmental disaster.

A DeLorean car became a time machine in the 1985 film Back to the Future.

In 1982 Argentina and the United Kingdom fought over the Falklands, a group of islands at the southern tip of South America. The Falklands War was won by the United Kingdom.

## The 1980s

The early 1980s saw the nuclear arms race grow ever more tense between the superpowers of the United States and USSR, but the decade's end brought an unexpected and dramatic change. The communist Eastern Bloc collapsed and the Berlin Wall came down—the Cold War was over. New technologies advanced unchecked, and more and more people bought home computers. The disaster at Chernobyl showed how dangerous a nuclear power station could be.