

Barbie

Read these questions before you listen to the Barbie podcast. Then, put down your pencil and listen carefully. Afterwards, see how much you can answer!



Why did Ruth Handler create the Barbie doll?

- Because the only dolls available at the time were baby dolls.
- She saw her daughter, Barbara, dressing paper fashion dolls.
- She wanted girls to see that they could be anything they wanted to be.



Why do you think Barbie is still around after 64 years? How is she different from other dolls?



Why did Barbie fall out of popularity in the early 2000s?

- Because she broke up with Ken.
- Her Dreamhouse and car were too expensive.
- Her unrealistic body shape meant that girls could not relate to her and aspiring to be like her was unhealthy.



Have you ever played with a Barbie or Ken doll? Did you enjoy it? Why or why not? If you don't own one, would you like to?

Barbie Over the Years

Barbies have changed a lot over the years. If Mattel continues to change Barbie with the times, what do you think 2050 Barbie will look like? Where will she live? How will she get around? **Use the space below to draw your idea of 2050 Barbie and her accessories.**



Barbie in 1959



Barbies today

Barbie Timeline

- 1959:** First Barbie, wearing a black and white swimsuit, released.
- 1962:** Barbie buys her first dream house.
- 1965:** Four years before the moon landing, astronaut Barbie released
- 1968:** Barbie's Black friend Christie released.
- 1980:** The first Black and Latin Barbie dolls released.
- 1992:** President Barbie's debut —she has run in every election since then.
- 2014:** Barbie becomes a social media influencer with her @barbiestyle Instagram.
- 2015:** Long criticised for her extremely skinny body, new Barbies are released: curvy, petite, and tall.
- 2019:** First Barbie with a disability (in a wheelchair).
- 2023:** Barbie, the movie, is released.