MAGAZINE ARTICLE DISCOVERIES

RUBIK AND HIS CUBE

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What is a Rubik's Cube?

In 2018, Yusheng Du of China broke a world record by solving a *Rubik's Cube* in just 3.47 seconds. A Rubik's Cube is a cube-shaped puzzle. Each side of the cube is a different color. Each side is made up of nine blocks. To do the puzzle, you twist and turn the blocks to mix up the colors. To solve the puzzle, you have to make the sides a solid color again.

Professor Erno Rubik invented the Rubik's Cube in 1974, in Budapest, Hungary. Rubik created the cube to teach his architecture students about 3-D movement. When Rubik made his first cube, it took him a month to solve it!

Rubik thought that some people might want to buy his puzzle. So, in 1975, Rubik got a patent for his "Magic Cube." Toy stores in Hungary began selling his invention. It was a hit! By 1977, around 300,000 Magic Cubes had been sold in Hungary.

In 1980, Rubik brought the Magic Cube to the United States. That's when its popularity skyrocketed. Over the next three years, 100 million of the newly-named "Rubik's Cube" were sold. Rubik's Cubes were everywhere. Rubik was shocked to see how many people were interested in his puzzle.

By the late 80's, people had lost interest in the Rubik's Cube. But in the late 90's, with the arrival of the Internet, the cube started to become popular again. It began after after Jessica Fridrich, an engineering professor, shared a solution to the puzzle on the Internet. The World Cube Association helped too, by holding contests to see who can solve the Rubik's Cube the fastest.

With more than 43 quintillion possible solutions, the Rubik's Cube continues to fascinate people around the world.

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Questions:

1- What is true about erno Rubik?

A- He patented his invention in 1974

B- He was surprised that his puzzle was so popular

C- He was an architecture profesor

D- He solved the first Rubik"s cube in less than 4 seconds

2- What important event happened in 1980?

A- Rubik named his cube "Magic Cube."

B- Erno Rubik moved to China.

C- The Rubik's Cube came to the USA.

D- The first Rubik's Cube was sold.

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3- The Rubik's Cube...

A- has stayed popular since it was invented.

B- was made to teach 3-D movement.

C- has around 100 million possible solutions.

D- was easier to solve when it was first invented.

4- Erno Rubik is still inventing things.

A- True

B- False

C- We don't know.

5- Yusheng Du...

A- broke a world record.

B- was born in 1990.

C- is from Hungary.

D- All of the above

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Glossary

1- **World record:** best performance or achievement in a particular activity in the world

2- **Twist:** use your hand to turn something around

3- **3-D:** something thas"s not but has width height and length short for "three dimencional"

4- **Patent:** legal permission to make a new invention that protecs the idea from being copied or stolen

5- **Hit:** something successful or popular

6- **Skyrocket:** go up very high very quickly

7- **Newly-named :** when something has just recently been given a different name

8- **Quintillion:** number 1 followed by 18 zeros 1,000,000,000,000,000,000

9- **Fascinate :** cause people to get very interested in something

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