

## Best 80's Cartoons

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Whether male or female, Generation X or Generation Y, you watched some classic part of the golden age of cartoons. Whether you watched them because your little brother or your kids had them on, or because they were the biggest thing in your life at the time, 80's cartoons were incredible.

Transformers

Cars and jets are cool. Big robots are awesome. The idea to have a show about cars and jets that turn into robots was absolute genius. Unlike that other transforming robot show that was too lame to even deserve to be mentioned by name, it didn't end there.

The story lines were involved and full of intrigue, betrayal, and even the deaths of major characters. The show was also kept fresh with the introduction of new robots like the Constructicons, who spent far more time destroying things than building them (this was good) and the Dinobots (dinosaurs AND robots... absolute brilliance).

The toys from the show didn't disappoint either. Transformer toys taught us to be jealous of the rich kids. If there was a status symbol among grade-schoolers, this was it. Robotech

For three reasons more than anything else:

1- It turned a generation onto Japanese animation. No way was it the first Japanese import, but "Robotech's" release along with the growing popularity of VCR's in the 80's went a long way toward giving American fans a taste of anime. A lot of fans ended up tracking down bootlegs of the "Macross" feature, and that led to other titles.

2- Unlike "G.I. Joe" where people always jumped to safety on parachutes, or "Voltron," where everything was controlled by "robots", when the jets and robots got shot up, people died. In the 80's cartoons were just so G-rated that it was a shock to see major and background characters die and have their deaths affect the plot.

3- It had a huge serial plot that wasn't wrapped up in a single episode or a mini-series. You had to keep track of what happened in each episode and pay attention. Yes, it DIDN'T insult its audience.

G.I. Joe A Real American Hero

Propaganda is distributed in many forms, one of them being this cartoon created in the eighties, its messages aimed at young boys. As children, we would hear horror stories from various sources about the horrors of war and the irreparable stigma of being part of our military. The Vietnam war was still fresh in the minds of American adults, and questioning authority was still the intellectual trend. Along comes G.I. Joe to reverse the clutches of anti-military campaigns across the nation, and suddenly our heroes become Snakeeyes and Chief Torpedo instead of Don Mattingly and George Brett. The show was a staple of our youth, and continues to broadcast today. Duck Tales

The idea of swimming around in a silo full of money is so attractive. Now, these fowls traveled the world solving mysteries and doing good. And it was always nice to see Scrooge's heart warm up by the end of each episode. He really was a good guy. Not the coldhearted tyrant that he seemed to be. Huey, Duey and Louie have got to be the smartest ducks this side of the planet. And they have created more laughter and have more campy wisdom than The Muppets and Fraggle Rock combined. Mmmm...swimming in money. Voltron

If you were a kid in the eighties and had the complete set of Voltron, you were the shit. These five large, independent mechanical tigers each controlled by a human would all join forces and ultimately create Voltron. There were yellow, blue, red, green, and of course, black. Voltron could fly, swim, time travel, but always kick ass. There was never a villain too large for Voltron.

And I'll form -- The head!

He-Man

Ignore all the things you've heard about him being blatantly homosexual from VH-1 and the Internet (yeah, because those sources are full of straight people), He-Man was the quintessential bad-ass. He ruled his kingdom by day, and when trouble called, he pulled out a humongous sword, chanted an awe-inspiring mantra, ripped his shirt off and rode to battle on a green tiger.

Pop culture, give me a damn break. Throw one of these Gen X'ers in there with a tiger and you see what happens. Does the name Roy ring a bell?

Pssh. Teela was hot. And you know He-Man was hittin' it after hours even though her father was his right-hand man. Damn right, Man-at-Arms. You work for me, carry my coffee, and I sodomize your daughter in the royal palace I won't let you step foot in. Now, go make me a sandwich. Ha ha!

And how many dudes you know would go after a ripped version of the grim reaper who had an army of mutants at his whim? Please, I don't want to hear any more members of the cast of "That 70's Show" calling He-Man gay when they weigh a buck five caked in mud and have his same hairstyle. Tom and Jerry

It is not conducive to us as adults to be entertained in simplicity. However, when we watch this cartoon about a cat chasing a mouse, we are enthralled. Watching this show, one cannot be unaware of the strange emotions the show provokes. Either we are afraid for Jerry, the rodent, as he narrowly escapes the clutches of the unlucky feline, or we are sad for Tom as his constant efforts to eat the mouse are un rewarded. Rarely are we treated to Tom and Jerry combining their efforts in an attempt to destroy the other animals on the block. Thundercats

So popular the producers duplicated it as Silverhawks, complete with a villain that went through a transformation. It was basically an animated martial-arts show, with nun chucks, sword, staff, and the two mini-Thudercats as ninjas. The outtake reel from the voice-actors is the source of one of the best internet-circulated sound clips ever. Panthro was the blackest non-human brother ever to appear in a kids' show, including Mr. T. And of course, Cheetara-- well...