

Teacher's notes to accompany *The War of the Worlds* worksheet
The Macmillan Magazine Online – Autumn 2010

1. Explain to the students that you are going to talk about something that happened on this day in history.
2. Dictate the first paragraph to the students, omitting the title.

Check the dictation together. Focus on the meaning of the paragraph and ask if anyone can suggest WHY people believed Martians were invading the world.

3. Having listened to the students suggestions, tell them that you are going to tell them exactly what happened. Read the final two paragraphs (below the script from the radio broadcast) out loud to them.

Ask the students to compare, in small groups, what they understood. Then get them to tell you what they understood. Read the text out loud again if necessary.

NOW GIVE THE STUDENTS THE WORKSHEET

Let the students read the text for themselves to check that they understood correctly.

4. Focus the pupils on the section of the radio script.

Complete the vocabulary task. ... Check together.

Allow students to perform or record the script if they want to.

5. If your students like to debate issues, you might like to discuss the following questions:

Could the same sort of hysterical reaction happen today? Why? Why not?

The last line speaks about the powerful influence of radio in 1938.

Is the radio as influential today? Why? Why not?

6. Organise the quiz appropriately for your teaching context. This might be allowing the students to find the answers on the Internet, or by simply putting the students into teams to write down their answers. ... Go through the answers together.
7. Complete the first sentence of the grammar task on the board. Revise the basics of passive forms if necessary. Give the students time to complete the rest of the task. ... Check together.
8. Students complete the dialogue. ... Check together.
9. Students act out the dialogue in pairs. Ask volunteers to perform in front of the class.
10. Students rewrite the dialogue based on a different film of their choice. Ask volunteers to perform in front of the class.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY: Match these definitions to the underlined words in the script.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. A long thin arms | tentacles |
| 2. A person who reports the news | reporter |
| 3. Something that is impossible to describe | indescribable |
| 4. The movement of a snake or a worm | wriggling |
| 5. Liquid falling drop by drop | dripping |
| 6. Escaping | running away |
| 7. A type of material used to make shoes and bags | leather |
| 8. A synonym of "seen" | witnessed |
| 9. Shining | gleaming |
| 10. Frightening | terrifying |

QUIZ: Find the answers on the Internet.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Who wrote the novel, <i>The War of the Worlds</i> ? | (H.G.Wells) |
| 2. In what year was the novel written? | (1898) |
| 3. Where is the novel set? | (The UK) |
| 4. Who directed the radio broadcast of <i>The War of the Worlds</i> in 1938? | (Orson Welles) |
| 5. Who directed the film of <i>The War of the Worlds</i> in 2005? | (Stephen Spielberg) |

GRAMMAR: Rewrite the sentences using a form of the passive.

- H. G. Wells wrote *The War of the Worlds*.
The War of the Worlds was written by H.G.Wells.
- Orson Welles directed the radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*.
The radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* was directed by Orson Welles.
- Stephen Spielberg directed 2005 film version of *The War of the Worlds*.
The 2005 film version was directed by Stephen Spielberg.
- In the book, Martians invade the Earth.
In the book, the Earth is invaded by Martians.
- In the end, a type of bacteria kills the Martians.
In the end, the Martians are killed by a type of bacteria.

SPEAKING: Complete the dialogue with the questions.

- A: Have you seen *The War of the Worlds*?
- B: No, I haven't. I don't know anything about it. Is it any good?
- A: Oh yeah. It's amazing. It's really worth watching.
- B: What type of film is it?
- A: Science fiction.
- B: Who's in it?
- A: Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman.
- B: What's it about?
- A: Oh, well, that's complicated. The Earth is invaded by Martians and Tom Cruise tries to kill them and save the world.
- B: What happens in the end?
- A: The Martians are killed by a bacterial infection.
- B: Sounds good.