

Performance of Martian invasion causes panic!

On October 30th 1938, thousands of people in the United States believed that Martians - extraterrestrials from the planet Mars - were invading the Earth. Why?

This is a part of the script from the radio broadcast:

REPORTER: Ladies and gentlemen, this is the most terrifying thing I have ever witnessed.

(SHOUTS FROM THE CROWD)

REPORTER: Something's wriggling out of the shadow like a grey snake. Now another one, and another. They look like tentacles to me. ... I can see the thing's body. It's as large as a bear and it's gleaming like wet leather. ... Ladies and gentlemen, it's indescribable. I can hardly force myself to keep looking at it. The eyes are black and gleam like a serpent. The mouth is V-shaped with saliva dripping from its lips. ... The monster or whatever it is can hardly move. It seems weighed down by . . . possibly gravity or something. The thing's standing up. The crowd is running away. ... This is the most extraordinary experience.

People who hadn't heard the beginning of the radio play thought the news report was real. Many of them panicked. Some of them got in their cars and drove out of New Jersey. Some of them hid in basements. Some of them wore gas masks and prepared to defend themselves with guns.

The mass hysteria caused by the infamous broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* in 1938 proved how powerful the influence of radio could be.

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

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Long thin arms | <u>tentacles</u> |
| 2. A person who reports the news | _____ |
| 3. Something that is impossible to describe | _____ |
| 4. The movement of a snake or a worm | _____ |
| 5. Liquid falling drop by drop | _____ |
| 6. Escaping | _____ |
| 7. A type of material used to make shoes and bags | _____ |
| 8. A synonym of "seen" | _____ |
| 9. Shining | _____ |
| 10. Frightening | _____ |

2) QUIZ: Find the answers on the Internet.

1. Who wrote the novel, *The War of the Worlds*?
2. In what year was the novel written?
3. In which country is the novel set?
4. Who directed the radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* in 1938?
5. Who directed the film of *The War of the Worlds* in 2005?

3) GRAMMAR: Rewrite the sentences using passive forms.

1. H. G. Wells wrote War of the Worlds.
War of the Worlds _____
2. Orson Welles directed the radio broadcast of The War of the Worlds.
The radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* _____
3. Stephen Spielberg directed 2005 film version of *The War of the Worlds*.
The 2005 film version _____
4. In the book, Martians invade the Earth.
In the book, the Earth _____
5. In the end, a type of bacteria kills the Martians.
In the end, the Martians _____

4) SPEAKING: Complete the dialogue with the questions.

Who's in it?	What's it about?	Is it any good?
What happens in the end?	What type of film is it?	

- A: Have you seen *The War of the Worlds*?
- B: No, I haven't. I don't know anything about it. _____?
- A: Oh yeah. It's amazing. It's really worth seeing.
- B: _____?
- A: Science fiction. It's set in the United States.
- B: _____?
- A: Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman.
- B: _____?

A Well, that's complicated. The Earth is invaded by Martians and Tom Cruise tries to kill them and save the world.

B: _____?

A: The Martians are killed by a bacterial infection.

B: Sounds good.

5) Act out the dialogue.

6) Write a dialogue about a different film.