

Reading Practice

Read the article and answer the questions.

I. Answer the following questions with **SHORT** answer.

1. Who directed *The Lord of the Rings* film?

2. Where is the director from?

3. Why did he choose New Zealand?

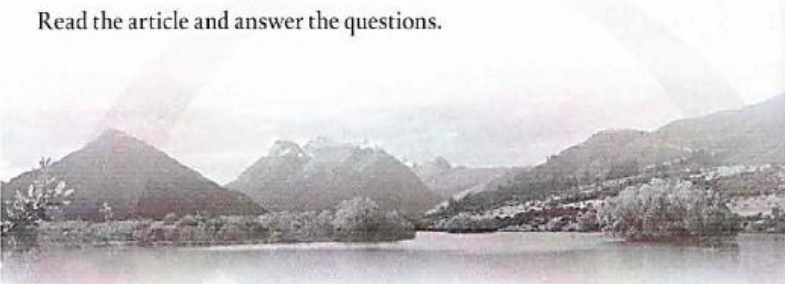
4. Which area did he use to create Mount Doom?

5. How many different locations did he use in Total?

6. What was the problem with some locations?

7. How did they solve the problems?

8. Which locations from the films can tourists visit today?



THE FILMS in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy have had a big impact on New Zealand. The country has become 'Middle Earth' to many of the people who have seen the films. This comes as no surprise to the film director Peter Jackson, who is in fact a New Zealander. He chose his home country because he knew that the variety of different landscapes made New Zealand the best place to shoot the films.

Jackson and his team looked over the whole country for the most beautiful and most appropriate areas. The rolling hills of Matamata became Hobbiton, the village where Bilbo Baggins lives, and the volcanic region of Mount Ruapehu transformed into the fiery Mount Doom, where Sauron first made the Ring. In total, the team used 150 different locations all over New Zealand and they spent 274 days filming.

Thirty of the locations Jackson used are National Parks or conservation sites so he needed to get special permission to film here. In some cases, a special team dug up the protected plants, and took them to special nurseries, where they lived until filming finished. Then the team took them back to the park and replanted them again. In Queenstown, Jackson used enormous red carpets to protect the plants in the battle scenes because there were up to 1,100 people on set every day.

The *Lord of the Rings* films have been so popular that the tourist industry in New Zealand has grown dramatically. Today, tour companies offer a wide range of tours to different locations of the film, including Hobbiton, Mount Doom, and Edoras.

