UNIT 14

READING

Hooray for Bollywood!

Scan the article. Who do you think it was written for?
- ☐ *people in the film industry*
- ☐ *the general public*
- ☐ *fans of Bollywood movies*

1 A storm forces a plane to make an emergency landing on a deserted island. The only shelter is a spooky house, where a murderer begins killing passengers. So what do these defenseless people do? They have a beach party and perform an elaborate song-and-dance number.

2 This is the world of Bollywood. The scene described above is from the classic Indian film *Gumnaam*, which was made in the 1960s. It is typical of the kind of movies that are still made in India today.

3 For as long as Hollywood has existed, there has also been an Indian film industry. Because it is based in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), it is popularly called Bollywood – from the words Bombay and Hollywood. While it is as old as Hollywood, it is much bigger. Bollywood currently has the largest movie industry in the world. It produces more than 1,100 films a year – and as many as 20 million people a day pack into movie theaters to see Bollywood films.

4 While there are many types of films made in India, the most popular are the movies made in Bollywood. The films, which are made in the Hindi language, generally deal with Indian history and social issues. The average Bollywood film runs about three hours but audiences don't seem to mind the length. The stories are melodramatic: Heroes drive around in flashy cars, actresses twirl around in beautiful costumes, and the poor boy always triumphs against the rich villain. They also feature many musical numbers, usually love songs.



5 Although the films may seem exaggerated to some, that's not how most filmgoers feel. These movies and their stars are beloved by audiences throughout Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. "Every South Asian grows up with some kind of connection to Bollywood," notes Indian writer Suketu Mehta. "In certain ways, it's what unites us."

A. Read the article. Choose the best option for each question.

1. How does Bollywood compare to Hollywood?

- It is much smaller than Hollywood.
- It is as old as Hollywood but much bigger in terms of movie production.
- Bollywood only makes low-budget films.
- Hollywood is more popular than Bollywood globally.

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2. How many Bollywood films are made every year?

- Around 500 films.
- About 200 films.
- Over 5,000 films.
- More than 1,100 films.

3. How long is a typical Bollywood movie?

- About three hours.
- Around one hour.
- Two and a half hours.
- Less than 90 minutes.

4. How do audiences feel about the stars of Bollywood movies?

- They are indifferent to the stars.
- They dislike the overacting of the stars.
- They love the movies and the stars, despite some finding them exaggerated.
- Audiences think the stars are only popular in India.

B. Find these sentences in the article. Decide whether each sentence is the main idea or a supporting idea in that paragraph. Check (✓) the correct boxes.

	Main idea	Supporting idea
1. This is the world of Bollywood. (par. 2)	☐	☐
2. It produces more than . . . to see Bollywood films. (par. 3)	☐	☐
3. While there are many . . . made in Bollywood. (par. 4)	☐	☐
4. The average Bollywood film . . . mind the length. (par. 4)	☐	☐
5. Although the films may seem . . . filmgoers feel. (par. 5)	☐	☐

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