

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

Perhaps you've seen the 2005 film *The War of the Worlds*. It tells the story of an attack on the Earth by aliens from Mars, and it stars Tom Cruise. But the story *The War of the Worlds* is much older than the Tom Cruise film.

- The British writer H.G. Wells wrote *The War of the Worlds* in 1898. It was one of the first science fiction books. In the story, the aliens attacked Britain. They destroyed a lot of British cities, including London.



- Four decades later, an American actor and director called Orson Welles used HG Wells' story for a radio play. The start of the play was like an ordinary radio music programme, but the end was like a news report. In the play, reporters described a terrible attack by aliens. Only one reporter survived. At the end of the play, he was alone on the top of a building. Many listeners panicked because they thought that the play was a real news report. They grabbed clothes and money and ran into the streets. They wanted to escape the aliens.
- In 1952, Hollywood made the first film called *The War of the Worlds*. In this film, aliens attacked California.
- There was also a musical version of *The War of the Worlds*. Jeff Wayne, an American from New York, wrote the music for a double album in 1978. It tells the story in words and music. You can still buy the album on CD today.

9 Read the text and answer the questions.

- What kind of book was *The War of the Worlds*?

- How did Orson Welles use the story?

- Why did a lot of Americans panic?

- When was the first film of *The War of the Worlds*?

- Where did the aliens land in this film?

- How many years after the book did the album appear?

2 MARKS FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER

TOTAL ____ / 12

10 Complete the sentences with words from the text.

- In the first four d_____ of the twentieth century, people listened to the radio, but they didn't watch TV.
- We hear a lot about the lives of film stars, but I'd like to know more about the lives of o_____ people.
- A lot of people died in the 2005 film, but Tom Cruise s_____.
- I didn't have much time. I g_____ my bag and left the house quickly.

2 MARKS FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER

TOTAL ____ / 8

VOCABULARY ____ / 40

GRAMMAR ____ / 40

READING ____ / 20

TOTAL ____ / 100