

Reading

1

Read the magazine article and put these films in the order that they were made.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Ben Hur | ☐ Titanic |
| ☐ Gandhi | ☐ The Cure for Insomnia |
| ☐ Distant Drums | ☐ Them! |
| ☐ The Lost World | ☐ Norbit |

Amazing World Records: THE FILM INDUSTRY

Most Oscars

Three films share the world record for the most Oscars won. *Ben Hur* (1959), *Titanic* (1997) and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003) all won 11 statues at Hollywood's biggest film awards.

Most extras in a film

Extras are all those people you see in film who aren't real actors. They are often local people who live close to where they are making the film. To film the funeral scene in his 1992 Oscar-winning film *Gandhi*, director Richard Attenborough used more than 300,000 extras. He had only one morning to film the scene, the 31st January 1981, exactly 33 years after Gandhi's actual funeral.

The longest film

In 1987, John Henry Timmis IV made a film called *The Cure for Insomnia*. The film was an amazing 85 hours long and had its first showing at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA from 31 January to 3 February. Most of the film just showed the poet LD Groban reading his 4,080 page poem.

The most common sound recording

In 1951 a sound effect was recorded for a film called *Distant Drums*. In the film a man was eaten alive by an alligator and the film studio Warner Bros decided a special scream was needed. This sound



effect was soon used in several more Warner Bros films including *Them!* (1954), *The Sea Chase* (1955) and *A Star is Born* (1954). It was given the name the 'Wilhelm Scream' after the character in the original movie and has now been heard in more than 130 films including *Batman Returns* (1992), *Planet of the Apes* (2001), *Madagascar* (2005) and *Norbit* (2007). It's also often heard in theme parks and in computer games.

And finally...

The first film ever shown on an aeroplane was in 1925 when passengers on an Imperial Airway's flight from London to Paris watched a movie called *The Lost World*.

2) Read the article again and write T (true) or F (false). If it is FALSE – CORRECT THE STATEMENT

1. *Ben Hur* was as successful at the Oscars as *Titanic*.

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2. *Gandhi* had around 300,000 actors in it.

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3. Richard Attenborough filmed *Gandhi*'s funeral scene in half a day.

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4. John Henry Timmis IV made a film that lasted for more than a day.

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5. The man killed by a crocodile in *Distant Drums* was called Wilhelm.

.....

6. The Wilhelm scream is not only used in films.

.....

b) Watch the **video** and answer the **questions**:

Click here:

- What is the **special scream** called?.....

- In **how many** movies can you hear it?

- **When** is this scream used – in which situations?

.....

- It was **first** used in the film called *Distant Drums* – **what exactly** was the screaming **character** doing?

.....

- **Why** has it been used so many times?

.....

- Name other **four movies** where it can be heard too.

.....

- Who is a **film buff**?

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