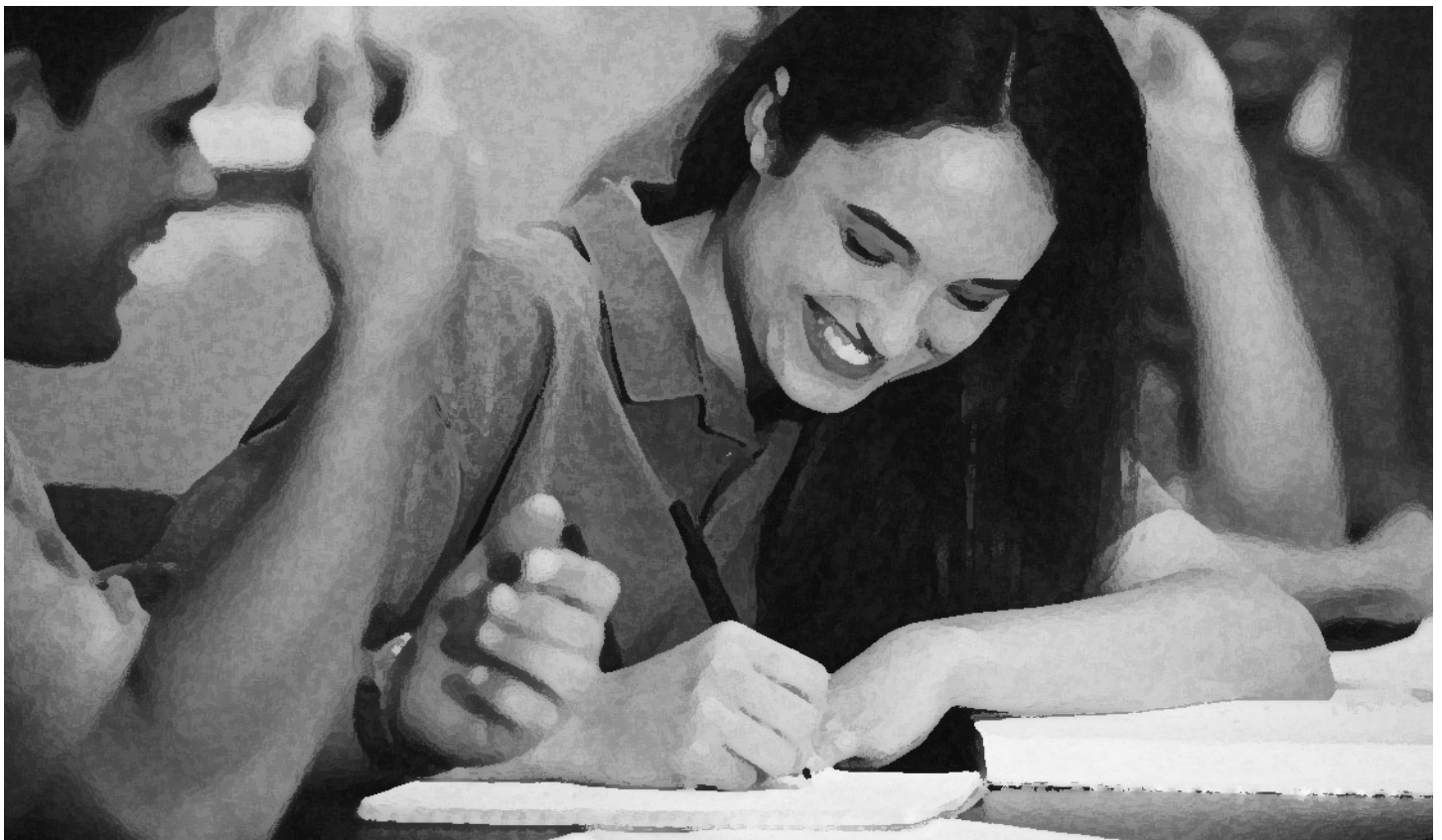


PRESTWICK HOUSE

# Activity Pack

## THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

BY H. G. WELLS



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Written by: Francis LeFevre

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Reading

### Technological Context

**Objective:** Developing an appreciation for the author's imagination

#### Activity

Science fiction, of which *The War of the Worlds* is a very early example, is writing which projects imaginary developments of present day technology into the future in a plausible fashion. When the work was published in 1898, the level of technology was still relatively unsophisticated. To develop an appreciation for the author's imaginative construction of what a first contact with an alien race might be like, it might be helpful to research some of the facets of today's technology that were unknown to H. G. Wells or not in general use at the time the book was written.

Using the chart that follows, make a list of the technological advancements that are a part of daily life today and research their inventors and the years in which they were invented or introduced. Indicate the impact that they have had on today's society. An example is given for you.

When you have completed your research, write a brief essay on how the relatively unsophisticated technology of the day would impact on an imaginative work of science fiction, such as *The War of the Worlds*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK ONE  
THE COMING OF THE MARTIANS**

**Chapters I-III**

**Foreshadowing**

**Objective:** Identifying passages in the text that foreshadow later action

**Activity**

Begin a **Foreshadowing Log** for Chapters I-III. Find passages from the story that foreshadow events or actions later in the novel. Note the impression foreshadowing has on you as a reader. What questions does it raise in your mind that might pique your interest or build suspense? Finally, as you continue to read, complete the chart by indicating when, where, or how the author subsequently fulfills the foreshadowing. The first one is done for you as an example. Find at least one additional example of foreshadowing in each of Chapters I-III.

**Foreshadowing Log**

Passage from the story (including the page number)	Questions in your mind Interest/Suspense	Fulfillment in the story
"No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's..." Pg. 11	Are we being watched by other creatures? If so, to what end?	Martians land on earth and begin to explore the terrain.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter VI

### An Alien Point of View

**Objective:** Rewriting a portion of the novel from the viewpoint of the Martian invaders

#### Activity

Imagine that you are the author and rewrite the story of this chapter's contact between the two species from the point of view of the alien invaders. We have written one or you as a sample of what it could look like. Try to make yours different from what we wrote.

#### Example:

How foolish and weak these Earth creatures are. They have no protection from our weapons, and our heat rays are set only on minimum. Their buildings and they themselves burn on contact and they now flee from us immediately. Things we do not understand, the large brown and green elements that grow from the soil of this planet that are alive, but seem not to be able to move, just explode into flames, but do not scream as the moving creatures do. Nothing has even attempted to impede our progress. This conquest will be easy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter VIII

### Debate

**Objective:** Debating the attempt to contact alien cultures

#### Activity

In Chapter V, an official delegation of humans attempts to initiate contact and, presumably, dialogue with the Martians. Their overture is met with a swift and terrible death. By this point in the story, it is obvious that the only desire to interact with humans the Martians have is to destroy them.

In the past several decades, attempts have been made to reach out from Earth in an attempt to contact other forms of intelligent life in the universe. This study is called SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence). In this activity, you will be asked to adopt a position regarding these attempts.

Everyone in the class needs to answer the following question:

Should human beings attempt to search out and contact other intelligent life in the universe?

Then you will be divided into two teams to gather information on the subject and actually debate it in class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter XI****Letter Writing****Objective:** Understanding character motivation**Activity**

The fleeing artilleryman the narrator shelters tells a harrowing tale of the day's activities encompassing the destruction of his regiment. Imagine you are the soldier and write a letter to your parents assuring them of your safety and describing what you have just experienced.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter XV****Point of View****Objective:** Understanding Point of View

An author's choice of point of view influences the way a reader interprets a work of literature. *The War of the Worlds* is written in the first person, through the narrator's eyes. It would obviously be very different if it were told by another character, for example a Martian.

In Chapter XV the narrator writes "No doubt the thought that was uppermost in a thousand of those vigilant minds, even as it was uppermost in mine, was the riddle—how much they understood of us." (Page 83)

Imagine that you are the commander of the invading Martians reporting back to your home base. In a few paragraphs describe your initial contact with the earth inhabitants and what has transpired so far.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Book Two  
The Earth under the Martians**

**Chapter I**

**Character Development**

**Objective:** Gaining insight into the novel's characters

**Activity**

At this point in the story, it is obvious that the narrator and the curate are very different personalities. Using the forms below create a psychological profile for each character. In the "explanation" sections, provide at least one example to back up your numerical evaluation. Complete the profile with a paragraph describing the personality of each individual.

**Psychological Profile of the Narrator**

How frequently or to what degree does the narrator exhibit this tendency or characteristic?

**Rating Scale**

- 5—Always
- 4—Frequently
- 3—Sometimes
- 2—Rarely
- 1—Never

Kindness	5	4	3	2	1
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*Explanation:*

Cleverness	5	4	3	2	1
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*Explanation:*

Confidence:	5	4	3	2	1
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*Explanation:*

Bravery:	5	4	3	2	1
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*Explanation:*

Personality Profile:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter VI

### Interviewing

**Objective:** Interviewing a main character

#### Activity

The narrator would provide an interesting interview, considering the traumatic events that he has just gone through.

You are a news-radio host popular for your interviews with people involved in headline-grabbing activity. You now have the chance to interview the narrator on your talk-radio show. Before the interview, you will want to think about the narrator a little in order to know what types of questions you'll be able to ask. You might want to question him about some of the events leading up to his escape from his desperate situation.

Remember, you are a talk-radio host. It is your job to pry the most interesting information from your guest so that listeners will continue to tune in to your show. Do not be afraid to unearth issues or ask controversially worded questions that will bring about the best responses. If you ask dull questions, the answers will not be much better, so try to ask questions that a modern interviewer might ask.

Here is a sample question:

Since you managed to escape from your captivity, wouldn't some people be under the impression that you made some kind of deal with the Martians?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter X****Epilogue****Objective:** Predicting future events**Activity**

In the Epilogue at the conclusion of *The War of the Worlds*, the narrator describes the immediate aftermath of the destruction of the Martian invaders.

Sometimes a book has an epilogue that describes the characters' lives several years later. In Chapter VII, the narrator thinks, "Surely, if we have learned nothing else, this war has taught us pity—pity for those witless souls that suffer our dominion." (Pg. 136). He is already entertaining hopes for the future. Pretend that you are the narrator ten years after the events of the book. Write about the Martian invasion and its aftermath, either on a personal level or on a worldwide scale.