

Before every Star Wars movie begins, George Lucas generously provides a short prologue to update viewers of events in the 'Star Wars' galaxy. Who is the only main character mentioned in the rolling prologue that precedes the events of the original 'Star Wars' film?

Answer: Princess Leia

Question: The opening sequence of the original 'Star Wars' film features a riveting battle between an Imperial Star Destroyer and a small freighter carrying Princess Leia. Aboard this freighter are R2-D2 & C-3PO. When we first see these two droids, who is accompanying them?

Answer: The other droid, similar in appearance to C-3PO, walks with R2-D2 & C-3PO for a time, but then vanishes into an opening after a short while. Though fans of 'Star Wars' have desperately attempted to understand the fate of this misguided droid, its whereabouts are unknown. (Note: Since sarcasm doesn't 'appear' in written speech, note that the last comment was fraught with it.)

Question: Who is the first character to utter any kind of speech in the original 'Star Wars'?

Answer: Correct answer: C-3PO. Figures, doesn't it? C-3PO has a reputation for being a loudmouth. The transcript from his initial conversation is as follows: C-3PO: 'Did you hear that?' R2-D2: 'Bleep, Blip, Bloop, Blip, Blip' (Rough translation: 'Yes') C-3PO: 'They shut down the main reactor. We'll be destroyed for sure. (Throws hands in the air in utter despair.) This is madness!' R2-D2: 'Bleep, Bleep, Bleep!' (Rough translation: 'Oh, pipe down you pessimistic pile of nuts and bolts!')

Question: In a last attempt to save stolen rebel plans to the Death Star, Princess Leia downloads them into R2-D2's memory banks. R2 and C-3PO are then able to depart the freighter they are on using an escape pod. Why isn't their escape pod destroyed?

Answer: Correct answer: Imperial troops hold their fire, as there are no life forms aboard. While C-3PO is having weird fantasies about being sent to the 'spice mines of Kessel' and being 'smashed into who knows what', the crafty R2-D2 formulates a plan to escape the clutches of the Empire. R2 locates an escape pod upon which the two droids make a safe descent to the planet Tatooine.

Question: The lovely Princess Leia is unfortunately captured very early on in the film by the tyrannical Darth Vader, who claims her correctly to be a spy. Princess Leia denies this accusation, suggesting that she is a member of the Imperial Senate on a diplomatic mission to which planet?

Answer: Correct answer: Alderaan. Interesting factoid: Did you know that Cindy Williams (of TV's 'Laverne and Shirley') was among those who auditioned for the part of Princess Leia?

Question: Princess Leia tried to throw off her Imperial captors by telling them where the Rebel base was located. What system did she send them off to investigate?

Answer: Dantooine was never shown in the movie but the Empire did discover the remains of a rebel base and it had been deserted for quite some time. This infuriated Grand Moff Tarkin and he ordered the princess to be terminated... immediately.

Question: C-3PO has a penchant for namecalling when it comes to conversations with his little buddy R2-D2. During an argument, just preceding their break-up after landing on Tatooine, C-3PO refers to R2-D2 by which of the following cruel phrases?

Answer: Correct answer: Nearsighted scrap pile. R2-D2 is on a mission to find Obi-Wan Kenobi, and he (assuming that R2 is a 'he') has a hunch as to which direction he should travel. C-3PO, on the other hand, just wants to be a fussy pants. Just after C-3PO insults R2, he (again, assuming maleness) gives his diminutive friend a swift kick and walks off.

Question: The Jawas make their way to the humble abode of Owen Lars and Beru Whitesun, aunt and uncle of one Luke Skywalker. The intention of the Jawas is to sell several droids to this humble little family. Most importantly, it seems, is that they purchase a translator who speaks which language?

Answer: Correct answer: Bocce. Aunt Beru makes it clear to Luke that they must have a translator droid who speaks Bocce. Uncle Owen adds that he needs a droid who understands the 'binary language of moisture vaporators'; must have items for any desert family.

Question: When Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi first meet Captain Han Solo, Han Solo tells them his ship the Millennium Falcon made what run in less than what parsecs?

Answer: Han Solo bragged about his Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs (by the way, a parsec is a unit of distance used in astronomy, equal to about 3.26 light years).

Question: Onboard the Death Star, R2-D2 locates where Princess Leia is being held prisoner. Where does C-3PO tell Luke where to find her?

Answer: Correct answer is: Level 5, detention block AA23

Question: In stormtrooper disguise, Luke & Han pretend they have a Wookiee prisoner and tell Princess Leia's guards Chewbacca is a prisoner transfer from where?

Answer: Correct answer: Cell block 1138 (which is a homage to George Lucas' first movie, THX 1138, which came out in 1971).

FACT: During filming of Return of the Jedi, Mayhew was told not to wander around while in costume. They were on location in the California redwoods, and there was some concern he would be mistaken as Bigfoot by hunters and be injured.

FACT: Actor James Earl Jones, who provided the voice of Darth Vader in the original Star Wars trilogy, suffered from a stutter in childhood. However, he was not the first choice for the baddie's rasping tones: Lucas originally wanted Orson Welles to voice the part, but deemed him too recognisable. Jones worked alongside British-born bodybuilder and actor David Prowse in the role, as Prowse's 6ft 5in stature made him a good physical fit for the arch-baddy.

FACT: Yoda may be a Star Wars favourite, but Lucas deliberately lets on little about him to retain an air of mystery. While hardcore fans will know the Jedi's first name is Minch, we don't know what species Yoda is or where he is from. Yoda's voice actor and puppeteer in the original trilogy was Frank Oz, who Lucas campaigned to have nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actor in The Empire Strikes Back. However, the Academy deemed him ineligible for an award because he was a puppeteer.

FACT: 8. THE MOVIE'S ICONIC OPENING CRAWL WAS CREATED WITH PRACTICAL EFFECTS.

The opening crawl for the original movie (which was cribbed from the Flash Gordon serials that also inspired the film) was done practically, by carefully placing 2-foot-wide die cut yellow letters over a 6-foot-long black paper background with a camera making a slow pass over them to mimic the crawl. In total, it took three hours to shoot.

FACT: Another notable feat for Han is that, not counting the prequels, he is the only non-Force-user to wield a lightsaber when he uses Luke's sword to open up the dead Tauntaun for warmth while the pair is stranded on Hoth.

24. SOME BIG NAMES WERE ON THE SHORTLIST TO DIRECT RETURN OF THE JEDI.

Steven Spielberg was Lucas's first choice to direct the third installment of the series, but Spielberg was forced to bow out due to Lucas's unceremonious exit from the Directors Guild, of which Spielberg was a prominent member.

Then-relative newcomers David Lynch and David Cronenberg were also tapped to potentially direct. Lynch was coming off the commercial success of his movie The Elephant Man, but turned Lucas down to direct the big-screen adaptation of Dune instead. Cronenberg was also coming off of a hit—the horror classic Scanners—but also turned Lucas down to write and direct Videodrome.

Lucas eventually settled on Welsh director Richard Marquand because he liked his previous movie, the 1981 WWII spy thriller Eye of the Needle.