

# The Locations of Star Wars

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

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<http://www.starwarsintheclassroom.com/content/ss/history/greenham.asp>

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## PREPARATION

Choose the word that does not belong and write it on the line.

[1] \_\_\_\_\_

rejoice

lament

moan

wail

[2] \_\_\_\_\_

hated

despised

beloved

disregarded

[3] \_\_\_\_\_

precede

succeed

follow

cease

[4] \_\_\_\_\_

flowers

herbs

fauna

flora

[5] \_\_\_\_\_

finale

climax

opening

culmination

[6] \_\_\_\_\_

foreground

backdrop

front

cover

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## READING THE TEXT

*Star Wars* fans around the world rejoiced when production of *Episode VII* was announced in 2012. A new era of adventures were ahead and most exciting of all was the return of beloved original trilogy characters like Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Chewbacca, and Princess Leia. The burning questions concerning the post-Death Star II days of the Empire and Rebellion would finally be answered. Because a film's journey from concept to screen is no simple feat, fans had to wait three long years before *The Force Awakens* reached theaters in December 2015.

Months and sometimes years of preparation precede the end result that is shown on the big screen and *The Force Awakens* was certainly no different. Writing the script, hiring a director, assembling a cast, financing the film and costume design are just some of the steps involved in making a movie. One of the most important stages of any film production, especially a *Star Wars* movie, is location scouting. *Star Wars* fans expect to be taken to new and exciting alien worlds filled with strange creatures, otherworldly flora and extraordinary structures.

To achieve this magic, location scouts seek out little known and often unseen places that exist right here on our planet. This tradition goes back to the beginning of *Star Wars* with *A New Hope* when George Lucas chose the African nation of Tunisia to be the backdrop for the desert planet Tatooine. While scouting in 1975, the crew discovered the unique architecture of Ajim on the island of Djerba. Lucas determined that this small village would make a perfect setting for the “wretched hive of scum and villainy” that was to be Mos Eisley. A few space props and costumed aliens were scattered about, but the area was more or less used as it was to create the illusion of an alien planet. Other nearby locations were used for the Junland Wastes and a deleted scene at Tosche Station. When *A New Hope* premiered in May 1977, audiences were unknowingly looking at a mostly unchanged Tunisian village while simultaneously being transported to “a galaxy far, far away.”

The tradition continued into the remaining films of both the original and prequel trilogies. In *The Empire Strikes Back* the Hardangerjøkulen glacier near Finse, Norway

was used to double as the ice world of Hoth. *Return of the Jedi* took us to the forest moon of Endor which was actually a redwood forest in Del Norte County, California. The prequels saw a return to Tunisia, which once again doubled as Tatooine, sites in Italy and Spain served as the Earth-like planet of Naboo and locations in Thailand and China functioned as the Wookiee planet of Kashyyyk.

In keeping with this tradition, J.J. Abrams and the rest of *The Force Awakens* crew were challenged to find visually exciting locations that evoked a sense of alien familiarity. One of the most talked about locations has been the Skellig Islands off the Irish coast. The isolated and ancient feel of the islands made a perfect backdrop for the hiding place of Luke Skywalker and, apparently, the first Jedi Temple.

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#### TASK 1 – CORRECT ANSWER

Choose the correct answer. Put a check ( ✓ ) in the correct box.

- [1] People wanted to find out what happened after the second Death Star was destroyed.
- ☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given
- [2] Fans had to wait until 2012 for *Episode VII* to play in theaters.
- ☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given
- [3] One of the most difficult aspects of preparing a movie is finding the best theaters to show the movie.
- ☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given
- [4] Location scouts had to leave the planet to find the best filming locations.
- ☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given
- [5] George Lucas could only use Tunisia to shoot one location.
- ☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given

[6] Lucas had no choice but to shoot the cold Hoth scenes in Norway.

☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given

[7] The settings for the planet Naboo were shot in multiple nations.

☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given

[8] The islands off the coast of Ireland were less than ideal for shooting Luke's hiding place.

☐ True   ☐ False   ☐ Not given

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## TASK 2 – CORRECT FORMS

Write the correct form of the word in the blanks on the right.

1. The first three *Star Wars* movies are the \_\_\_\_\_ three.  
(origin) \_\_\_\_\_
2. I waited longer than I had wanted to, but after half an hour  
my bus \_\_\_\_\_ came. (final) \_\_\_\_\_
3. The tiger in the bushes remained \_\_\_\_\_ when the  
unsuspecting deer arrived at the river's edge. (seen) \_\_\_\_\_
4. I spent nearly all my money on my trip abroad. My \_\_\_\_\_  
money will just about buy me a cup of coffee. (remain) \_\_\_\_\_
5. I am not much of a gambler, but when I went to Las Vegas  
I \_\_\_\_\_ my money in about ten minutes. (double) \_\_\_\_\_

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## DISCUSSION TOPIC

Do you know where some of your favorite movies were filmed? Were they shot in exotic locations?