

INTRODUCTION

“Yet across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us. And early in the twentieth century came the great disillusionment”. — Chapter 1 - *The War of the Worlds*

Here at Classics Illustrated we hope to provide you and your students with enjoyable, accessible and thought provoking activities related to some of the finest books ever written.

Our classroom guides aim to give enough background information to satisfy both teachers and students, which is why we have included a synopsis of the story, and based all activities on the unabridged version of the novel.

This means that you can use this book with any copies of *Oliver Twist* or *War of the Worlds* that you have to hand. Great where budgets are limited!

We know you are busy and your time is precious. So we designed this to be a photo-copiable resource that can be used in paper format or shown on a whiteboard. As an added help, many of the activities can be used with little or no preparation, and we've included answers to set questions.

The activities are designed to be used with students ranging from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 or SEN students at most levels. Some are simply informative, some are worksheets, and some stimulate further discussion, research and more involved writing tasks. Most provide a lead into a myriad of extension tasks, and we've listed an abundance of websites full of follow-up ideas and materials.

This aide can be used alongside the Classics Illustrated books just as well as any traditional text, although that certainly isn't a requirement. A lot of the activities will stand alone using the information contained within these covers.

You will also see many opportunities for cross-curricular study including history, PSHE, ICT, drama and art and design.

To meet the requirements of the English curriculum these activities will ensure that many aspects of speaking and listening, reading and writing are covered.

We hope that you and your students enjoy both this book and the wonderful Classics Illustrated series.

The Classics Illustrated education team

THE NOVELS OF H. G. WELLS

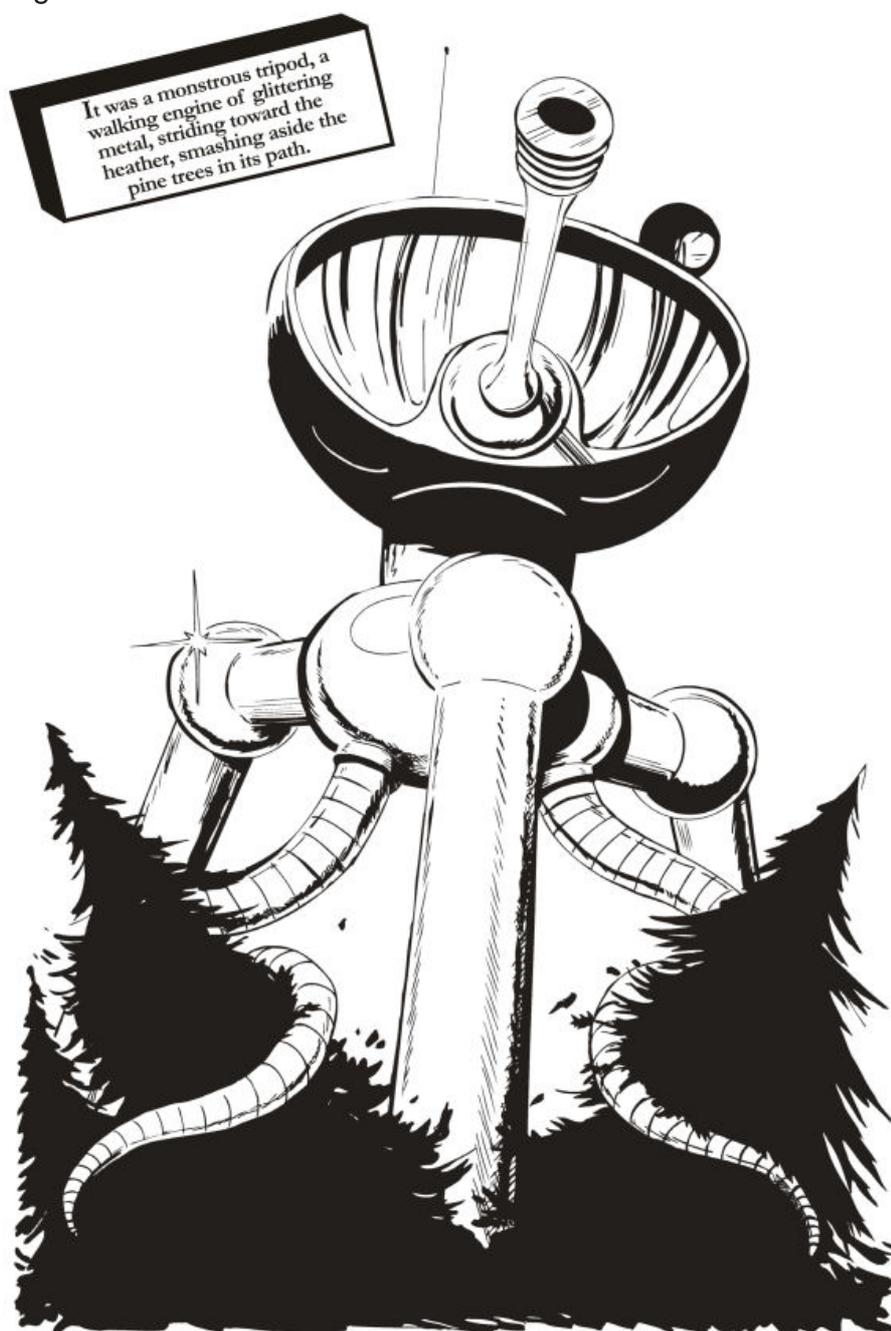
A prolific writer, H. G. Wells published many short stories, collections and non-fiction works as well as the novels listed below.

- The Time Machine* (1895) aka *The Chronic Argonauts*
The Wonderful Visit (1895)
The Island of Doctor Moreau (1896)
The Wheels of Chance (1896)
The Invisible Man (1897)
***The War of the Worlds* (1898)**
Love and Mr Lewisham (1899)
The Sleeper Awakes (1899) aka *When the Sleeper Wakes*
The First Men in the Moon (1901)
The Sea Lady (1902)
The Food of the Gods (1904)
Kipps (1905)
In the Days of the Comet (1906)
The War in the Air (1908)
Ann Veronica (1909)
Tono-Bungay (1909)
The History of Mr Polly (1910)
The New Machiavelli (1911)
Marriage (1912)
The Passionate Friends (1913)
The Wife of Sir Isaac Harman (1914)
The World Set Free (1914)
The Research Magnificent (1915)
Bealby: A Holiday (1915)
Boon, The Mind Of The Race... (1915) (writing as Reginald Bliss)
Mr Britling Sees It Through (1916)
The Soul of a Bishop (1917)
Joan and Peter: A Story of an Education (1918)
The Undying Fire (1919)
The Secret Places of the Heart (1922)
Washington and the Hope of Peace (1922)
Men Like Gods (1923)
The Dream (1924)
Christina Alberta's Father (1925)
The World of William Clissold (1926)
Meanwhile (1927)
Mr Blettsworthy on Rampole Island (1928)
The King Who Was A King (1929)
The Treasure In The Forest (1929)
The Autocracy of Mr Parham (1930)
The Bulpington of Blup (1932)
The Shape of Things to Come (1933)
The Man Who Could Work Miracles (1936)
The Croquet Player (1936)
Brynhild (1937)

Star Begotten (1937)
Apropos Of Dolores (1937)
The Camford Visitation (1937)
The Brothers (1938)
The Holy Terror (1939)
All Aboard for Ararat (1940)
Babes In The Darkling Wood (1940)
You Can't Be Too Careful (1941)

TASK:

Find three themes apparent in H. G. Wells non-fiction works. Choose one theme and link to his fictional work describing those themes and issues and explaining the links.



Herbert George Wells (1866-1946)

H. G. Wells was born in Bromley, Kent, on September 21st, 1866, the fourth and last child of Joseph Wells and Sarah Neal. His origins were lower middle class, his father being a semi-professional cricketer and his mother a domestic servant. The family owned a small shop, which sold the odd mixture of china and sporting goods – perhaps one of the reasons why it didn't do well!



Wells' education began at Morley's School in Bromley, but he had to leave at fourteen to become apprenticed to a draper, as the family's finances had taken a turn for the worse. In 1883, Wells persuaded his parents to sign the papers releasing him from his apprenticeship, becoming instead a 'pupil teacher' at Midhurst Grammar School in West Sussex, England. He won a scholarship to the Normal School of Science at South Kensington (later the Royal College of Science, now part of Imperial College London) in 1884, where he studied under the biologist T. H. Huxley. Wells left Kensington without a degree in 1887, having failed to pass his geology exam, returning again to teaching as a source of income. He finally received a degree in zoology from the University of London in 1890.

Having moved in with his aunt Mary, Wells began teaching at Henley House School in London. In 1891 he married his cousin Isabel Wells. The marriage was both difficult and brief. It was also childless.

In 1895, he published his first novel, *The Time Machine*. Divorcing his first wife, Wells remarried (to one of his students, Amy Catherine Robbins) and moved on from teaching.

A series of scientific fantasies called "scientific romances" followed - *The Time Machine: The Island of Dr. Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897), *The War of the Worlds* (1898), *When the Sleeper Awakes* (1898), *The First Men in the Moon* (1901), and *The War in the Air* (1908).

Love and Mr. Lewisham (1900), Wells' first non-science fiction novel, concerned the relationship between men and women. An interesting topic and one reflected in his private life, as in addition to his two sons by his wife Amy, Wells went on to have two children by other women during his second marriage.

His semi-autobiographical novels continued with *Kipps* (1905), *Tono-Bungay* (1909), and *The History of Mr. Polly* (1910). These novels are considered by some to be his greatest achievement.

As his writings show, Wells was critical of the Victorian social and moral orders. His criticism became more explicit as his involvement with radical causes grew. Wells' involvement with socialism and radicalism had begun in 1884 and continued for the remainder of his life.

His most consistent political ideal was that of the World State. He wrote in his autobiography that from 1900 onward he considered a World State inevitable. He envisioned the state to be 'a planned society that will advance science, end nationalism and allow people to advance by merit rather than birth'

Many of his theories and ideas became evident in his writing, such as *Anticipations* (1901), *Mankind in the Making* (1903) and *A Modern Utopia* (1905). He joined the Fabian Society, a socialist group that included George Bernard Shaw and Sydney Webb, in 1903. Four years later, failing in his attempt to make the organisation more radical, Wells resigned.

His values and political thinking came under increasing criticism from the 1920s and afterwards. Although declaring his politics 'socialist', during his work on the League of Nations charter, he opposed any mention of democracy. He thought that the average citizen could never be educated or aware enough to decide major world issues. So he felt that suffrage should be limited to scientists, organisers, engineers, and others of merit, although he believed that citizens should have as much freedom as possible without restricting the freedom of others!

As he devoted his final decades toward causes which were largely rejected by contemporaries, so his literary reputation declined. One critic said, "Mr. Wells is a born storyteller who has sold his birthright for a pot of message."

He died on August 13th, 1946 at his home at 13 Hanover Terrace, Regent's Park, London. No firm conclusion has been reached as to the cause of death. Some reports give the cause of death as diabetes or liver cancer. In his preface to the 1941 edition of *The War in the Air*, Wells had stated that his epitaph should be: "I told you so. You damned fools!" but his wish was not granted as he was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on 16 August, 1946 and his ashes were later scattered at sea. A commemorative plaque in his honour was installed at his home in Regent's Park.

In his lifetime, Wells was considered to be a prominent socialist thinker. In later years, however, Wells' image shifted and he is now regarded as one of the pioneers of the science fiction genre.

TASK: Name three contemporaries of H. G. Wells who wrote science fiction books. Investigate their backgrounds. Were there any similarities in social class, upbringing or education? Why would that be? What other influences were at work during these times?

WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THE WORLD IN H. G. WELLS' LIFETIME?

1866 - The first daylight robbery in United States history during peacetime takes place in Liberty, Missouri. This is considered to be the first robbery committed by Jesse James and his gang, although James' role is disputed

Reconstruction: Tennessee becomes the first U.S. state to be re-admitted to the Union following the American Civil War.

Alexander II of Russia narrowly escapes an assassination attempt in the city of Kiev.

1893 - USA. A growing credit shortage created panic, resulting in a depression. Over the course of this depression, 15,000 businesses, 600 banks, and 74 railroads failed. There was severe unemployment and wide-scale protesting which in some cases became very violent.

1894 - Robert Louis Stevenson dies

1895 - The Japanese defeat the Chinese in the first Sino-Japanese War.

1897 - Rev. Enoch Sontonga composes the Xhosa hymn, Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika (God bless Africa). Its melody is used for the national anthems of Tanzania and Zambia, and it becomes an anthem for those who struggled to eradicate Apartheid in South Africa.

1899 - The Second Boer war begins

1900 - Boxer Rebellion -The Boxers called themselves "I Ho Ch'uan," and their goal was the removal of foreign influence from China.

1900 - First Zeppelin developed

1901 - Queen Victoria dies - on January 22nd. She was 82 years old and had ruled Great Britain and all its dominions since 1837.

Australia created by virtue of an act of Parliament passed in July 1900; the Commonwealth of Australia came into being.

McKinley assassinated on September 14th while attending the Pan American Exposition, President William McKinley was shot by an anarchist.

First Mercedes car built

1902 - Edison invents the modern battery

1903 - Wright Brothers fly first plane

1904 - Rolls Royce cars is formed

1904 - Trans-Siberian Railroad is completed - the Russians complete the Trans – Siberian railroad from Moscow to Port Arthur.

1904 - James Barrie's Peter Pan is published to worldwide acclaim

1905 - Jules Verne dies

1905 - Einstein publishes his theory of relativity

1910 - King Edward VII dies

1912 - RMS Titanic sank

1914 - World War I began

1927 - Model T Ford designed

1928 - Penicillin discovered

Amelia Earhart flies the Atlantic solo

1936 - George V dies

1939 - World War II begins

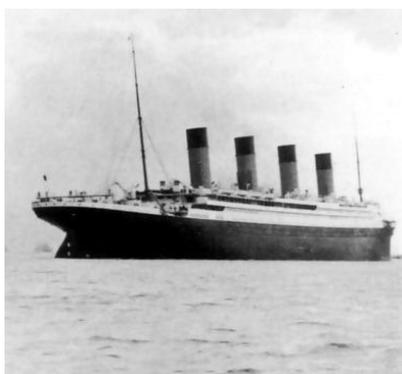
1946 - ENIAC (for “Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer”), the first general-purpose electronic computer, is unveiled at the University of Pennsylvania.

Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering (later renamed Sony) is founded with about 20 employees.

The first Cannes Film Festival is held

President Harry Truman officially proclaims an end of hostilities in World War II

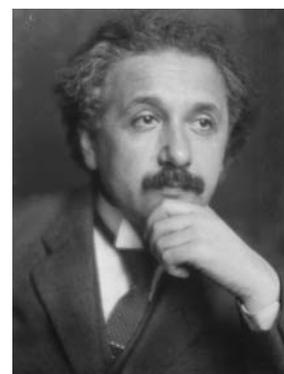
TASK: Research and write a page on any of the people or topics underlined. Work a link to H. G. Wells into your composition.



RMS Titanic



The Battle of the Somme



Albert Einstein