

**A** Warm up

1. Imagine you were writing the world's most exciting movie. Which of these scenes would you include?



a shootout



escaping from a tribe of natives



a car chase



a fistfight



escaping from a dinosaur



an explosion



getting lost in the desert

## B Vocabulary

1. Match the words from the article with their definitions, then fill in the blanks.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| a) depict     | ___ changed so that it works better or is better suited for a purpose      |
| b) exotic     | ___ a period of time in the development of something                       |
| c) adapted    | ___ a journey or trip in search of something                               |
| d) classics   | ___ to describe (someone or something) using words, a story, etc.          |
| e) progress   | ___ making money   |
| f) phase      | ___ from another part of the world   |
| g) profitable | ___ the process of improving or developing something over a period of time |
| h) quest      | ___ things that have been considered to be excellent for a long time       |

## C Check your understanding

After reading the article, answer the following questions:

1. What are the main differences between an action movie and an adventure movie?
2. What sub-genres of adventure movies are mentioned in the article?
3. What is a swashbuckler?
4. Why are disaster movies becoming more popular now?
5. If adventure movies are so expensive to film, why do you think movie studios continue producing them?

### Adventure conventions:

- hero is often on a quest
- exotic locations, but can be set in any time period
- lots of action, but focus is usually on hero vs. environment, not hero vs. villain
- fish out of water convention is often used

### Adventure Film sub-genres

- Swashbucklers
- Historical epics
- Disaster films
- Jungle & desert films

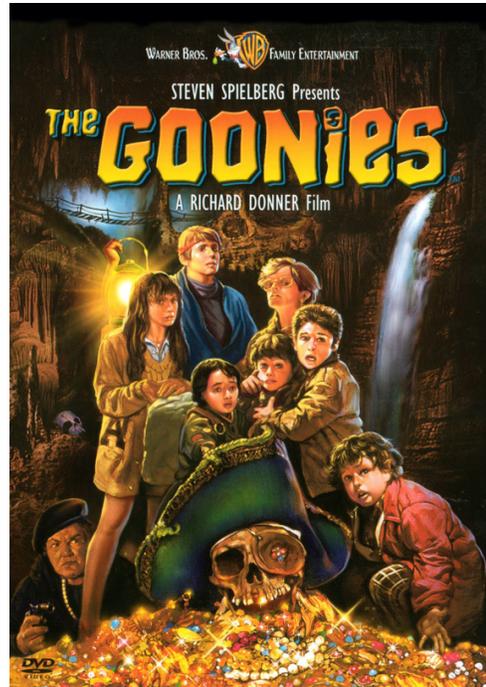
## Action or Adventure?

Adventure films are exciting stories, often based in \_\_\_\_\_ locations such as jungles or deserts. They often cross over with the action film genre because they are designed to provide an action-filled experience for the film viewer. But instead of the emphasis on violence and fighting that is found in action films, the adventure films \_\_\_\_\_ the travels, explorations, struggles and situations that the main characters deal with. These characters are often on some sort of \_\_\_\_\_, for example hunting for a treasure (*The Goonies* 1985) and they are usually struggling outside of their regular world or environment (remember the "fish out of water" convention?).

Besides the action genre, adventure movies are often hybrid with science fiction (*Avatar* 2009), fantasy (*The Princess Bride* 1987) and war films (*Saving Private Ryan* 1998). Many adventure movies also contain rom-com elements (*Romancing the Stone* 1984).

Early adventure films were often swashbucklers, movies with lots of sword fights and gymnastic stunts by the actors. *The Three Musketeers* (1921), *Robin Hood* (1922) and *Zorro* (1920) are representative of this early \_\_\_\_\_ of adventure films. Later the genre expanded to include historical epics such as *Ben Hur* (1959), and

movies that featured a hero on a quest in the desert or jungle. *The African Queen* (1951) and *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) are \_\_\_\_\_ of the jungle/desert sub-genre.



Modern adventure films, many of which have been successful blockbusters, have added more elements from the action genre, namely villains, chases and gunfights. Perhaps the most famous of all "pure" adventure films are the *Indiana Jones* movies. And with the \_\_\_\_\_ of special effects technology, disaster films (*The Poseidon Adventure* 1972, 2006) are becoming a more and more popular sub-genre of adventure movies.

Adventure films can be set in any time period, and ones set in the past may include \_\_\_\_\_ stories of historical or literary adventure heroes (*Robin Hood* and *Tarzan* for example). Kings, native tribes, and pirates are also common in these "historical" adventures.

Adventure movies are usually expensive to film, but the good ones make a lot of money. Some of the most \_\_\_\_\_ film series in history are from the adventure genre. Besides *Indiana Jones* (1981- 2008), the *Star Wars* (sci-fi adventure), *Lord of the Rings* (fantasy-adventure) and *Pirates of the Caribbean* (swashbuckler) franchises have made billions of dollars.

## D Iconic Scene

1. Watch the following scene from the adventure movie *Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981).

**Guide:** We must hurry. There is nothing to fear here.

**Indy:** That's what scares me. Stay here.

**Guide:** If you insist, señor.  
.....

**Indy:** Give me the whip. Throw me the idol. No time to argue. So me the idol, I throw you the whip.

**Indy:** Give me the whip!

**Guide:** Adios señor.  
.....

**Bad Guy:** Dr. Jones. Again we see that there is nothing that you can possess that I cannot take away. And you thought that I'd given up. You chose the wrong friends. This time it will cost you.

**Indy:** Too bad that the Beato's don't know you the way I do.  
.....

**Bad Guy:** Yes, too bad. You could warn them... If only you spoke Obidos.  
.....

**Indy:** Chuck! Start the engines! Get it up! Start the engines!  
.....

**Indy:** There's a big snake in the plane, Chuck!

**Chuck:** Oh, that's just my pet snake Reggie.

**Indy:** I hate snakes, Chuck! I hate them! Come on! Show a little backbone, will ya?

2. Ask a partner the following questions.

1. Do you think you prefer action or adventure movies?
2. Can you think of any Japanese adventure films?