

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Pair Discussion

Discuss the following questions in pairs.

1. What is your favorite movie?
2. Do you know where it was filmed?
3. Would you like to visit the place where your favorite movie was filmed?  
Give reasons for your answer.
4. Do you know where the movie "The Fellowship of the Ring", the first movie in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, was filmed?
5. Do you know where the movie "Star Wars" was filmed?



### B: Quiz

Take this short quiz about New Zealand. Circle one answer for each question.

1. New Zealand is located in...
  - a. the United States.
  - b. Europe.
  - c. the Pacific.
  - d. South America.
2. New Zealand has a population of...
  - a. 10.6 million people.
  - b. 3.9 million people.
  - c. 100.2 million people.
  - d. 45.5 million people.
3. People from New Zealand are called..
  - a. Shepherds.
  - b. Kiwis.
  - c. All Blacks.
  - d. Silver Ferns.
4. New Zealand has...
  - a. mountains.
  - b. glaciers.
  - c. beaches.
  - d. volcanoes, mud pools and hot springs.
  - e. forests.
  - f. rolling green hills.
  - g. all of the above.
5. The capital city of New Zealand is...
  - a. Auckland.
  - b. Christchurch.
  - c. London.
  - d. Wellington.
  - e. Sydney.
6. New Zealand is about the size of...
  - a. Australia.
  - b. Great Britain.
  - c. Ireland.
  - d. Canada.

### C. What Else Do You Know?

Write down anything else that you know or have heard about New Zealand.

## Reading Activities

### A: Taking Notes and Summarizing: 1

1. Make short notes as you read each of the four paragraphs of Part One of today's article.
2. Now briefly summarize Part One of the article in no more than 2 or 3 sentences.

#### Part One

## New Zealand Eyes Rings Movie Role Spin-Off

BY RODNEY JOYCE

WELLINGTON Wednesday December 19 (Reuters) - Kiwi film director Peter Jackson's opening film in the "The Lord of the Rings" **trilogy**, "The Fellowship of the Ring," has opened worldwide. The second and third films in the series will follow after one-year gaps. As moviegoers watch heroic hobbit Frodo Baggins trek through the mountains and forests of Middle Earth, New Zealand will be looking to **cash in** on its own role in the latest fantasy **blockbuster** to hit the screens.

New Zealand, where the films were shot, is already spending millions of dollars promoting itself as **a movie makers' paradise**. Entrepreneurs are busily tempting fans of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy trilogy **down under** to see for themselves where the movies were filmed. Voted the story of the 20th century in some millennium polls, Lord of the Rings has a fanatical following with 100 million books sold since it was written in the 1950s.

"New Zealand is Middle Earth," says actor Elijah Wood, who plays Frodo. "It has every geological formation and geographical landscape you can imagine ... and some you couldn't."

The challenge for Pete Hodgson, New Zealand's Minister for Lord of the Rings, as well as Minister of Energy, Fisheries, Forestry and Science, is to ensure the stunning **backdrops** in the movie **lure** both tourists and movie makers to follow in Frodo's footsteps. "Some films have a good link with their origin and some films haven't ... Most of the world didn't know that Star Wars was made in Morocco," Hodgson told Reuters.

The New Zealand promotional effort builds on the dreams of Jackson, a self-taught movie maker who began with the tongue-in-cheek blood and gore of splatter movies. He read "The Lord of the Rings" as a teenager and sold a major Hollywood studio on the idea that he could bring to life one of the world's most-loved stories. Jackson found plenty of room in New Zealand -- a country with 3.9 million people spread over a land the size of Great Britain -- to film scenes ranging from volcanic Mount Doom to the gently rolling green countryside of Frodo's home in Hobbiton. (Continued/...)

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**Glossary:** **trilogy** - a group of three books or movies that are connected **cash in** - to make money / profit from something  
**blockbuster** - a very successful film or book **a movie makers' paradise** - a place which has everything that is needed for making movies  
**down under** - an informal phrase that refers to either the countries in the Pacific, usually Australia or New Zealand.  
**backdrops** - the background scenery **lure** - the power to cause something / someone to draw near.

### B: Comprehension

Read the questions and read **Part One** again to find the answers.

1. How many films has Peter Jackson had to make to tell the story of "The Lord of the Rings"?
2. What is the title of the first film in the trilogy?
3. What role did New Zealand play in the making of the movie?
4. Now that the film has been made, what is New Zealand trying to do?
5. What was one reason why Peter Jackson chose to film the movie in New Zealand?
6. What example of a geological formation is used in the article?
7. What example of a geographical landscape is used in the article?
8. Why do you think New Zealand appointed a government minister to be Minister for "The Lord of the Rings"?

### C: Taking Notes and Summarizing: 2

1. Make short notes as you read **Part Two**.
2. Now briefly summarize **Part Two** in no more than two or three sentences.

#### Part Two

(Continued/...) Travel entrepreneur Vic James, from Red Carpet Tours, is out to grab a share of the potentially lucrative tourism spin-off from the movie, as Tolkien fans seek to follow Frodo's progress through 35 filming locations.

Up to 300 Singaporean fans may be the first to follow the movie's call, with James booking bus trips in February to see "mysterious forests where magic still lingers," as he describes it. However the fans will need to bring

their imaginations with them.

"All of the movie sets have been dismantled but what they're going to be seeing is the exact spot where the different shots were filmed," James told Reuters. "A lot of it is the natural scenery anyway and particularly the genuine fans, they'll want to come to that particular area because it will be like hallowed ground to them," he predicts. (Continued/...)

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**Glossary:** **lucrative:** a deal that would make lots of money **spin-off:** a side result or benefit of something; not the main result or benefit  
**lingers:** slow to go away **movie sets:** places where a movie is filmed **hallowed:** sacred or holy

## D: True or False?

Look at these statements and read **Part Two** again to see if they are **true** or **false**.

1. Vic James is the only person who is organizing travel for people who want to see where "The Lord of the Rings" was filmed.
2. Fans can see the sets from the movie's 35 different filming locations.
3. Fans will see the exact places where different parts of the movie were filmed.
4. Vic James thinks that fans will not mind if they have to use their imagination.

## E: Check Your Understanding

Read **Part Three** of today's article and then choose the correct statements.

1. New Zealand wants to...
  - a. attract filmmakers to Wellington.
  - b. attract tourists only.
  - c. attract tourists, but more importantly it wants people to come and make movies in New Zealand.
2. Before 'The Lord of the Rings' was made...
  - a. New Zealand spent hundreds of millions of dollars on making feature movies.
  - b. New Zealand spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on making feature movies.
  - c. New Zealand spent only a few million dollars on making feature movies.
3. The movie 'The Lord of the Rings' has helped the New Zealand film industry by...
  - a. bringing a lot of money into New Zealand.
  - b. encouraging people who have special skills needed for making films.
  - c. providing lots of opportunities for New Zealand actors.
4. At the moment...
  - a. it is cheaper to make movies in New Zealand than in the United States.
  - b. it is more expensive to make movies in New Zealand than in the United States.
  - c. it costs about the same to make movies in New Zealand as it does in the United States.
5. Many people think of New Zealand as...
  - a. a country where there are sheep everywhere.
  - b. a beautiful, peaceful country that has lots of sheep but not much else.
  - c. a place that has lots of towns and beautiful scenery.

### Part Three

(.../Continued.) But the bigger focus is on New Zealand as a movie location, and not just because of the glistening snowy mountains that Frodo and his fellowship of ring-bearers must cross on their trek.

New Zealand has had moderate success in the movie industry, through films such as haunting period love story "The Piano" (1992) and the graphically violent "Once Were Warriors" (1994). It was also home to cult television show "Xena, Warrior Princess."

But the Rings trilogy (which cost AOL Time Warner's New Line Cinema nearly \$300 million to make) is a huge leap forward for a country that spent just \$6.5 million making **feature**

**movies** the year before Jackson -- typically bare foot in baggy shorts -- began working on Middle Earth in a **nondescript** warehouse that is his studio in suburban Wellington.

In fact "The Lord of the Rings" has been a leap forward for New Zealand's small film sector, advancing skills ranging from computer graphics to wardrobe, says Ruth Harley, the chief executive of promotional agency "Film New Zealand". A 30 percent fall in the New Zealand dollar in the past four years has made it much cheaper to film there and Harley is setting out to change a perception that New Zealand is a beautiful but quiet rural **backwater** overrun with sheep.

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#### Glossary:

**feature movies** - a full-length movie, usually 2-3 hours long, that has an invented story played by actors

**nondescript** - not noticeable; doesn't have anything that would make it stand out

**backwater** - a place that is away from the places where most things happen and is therefore not affected by events, new ideas, etc.

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Research

You are a travel agent. You have been asked to prepare a travel itinerary (i.e. a travel plan) for a group of tourists from your hometown who want to visit New Zealand. They are spending ten days in New Zealand. They will arrive in Auckland and leave from Christchurch. They want to see New Zealand's natural scenery. Your job is to do some research and find out which places they should visit during their stay. Be prepared to describe the itinerary to your class. Write or type up the travel itinerary neatly to give to your teacher.

### B: Language

The words **in**, **at**, and **on** are prepositions used for telling the reader or listener where something is. Complete the sentences using **in**, **at** or **on** and one of the following nouns or noun phrases in the table:

an e-mail	the movie	the sky	his finger	the mountains
his coffee	a T-shirt	New Zealand	the end	the island
the series	the top	holiday	Frodo	a hobbit

1. All three movies of "The Lord of the Rings" were filmed \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. When we were filming \_\_\_\_\_ , it started to snow.
3. Fortunately, there was nobody living \_\_\_\_\_ when we did the filming there.
4. The ring \_\_\_\_\_ made him disappear.
5. The interviewer asked Peter if he would like sugar \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. "I am looking forward to seeing the next two movies \_\_\_\_\_ ," said the critic.
7. Elijah Wood is one of the main actors \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Peter Jackson's studios can be found \_\_\_\_\_ of a small suburban street in Wellington, New Zealand.
9. There wasn't a cloud \_\_\_\_\_ when we started filming the movie.
10. "Come and visit New Zealand-Middle Earth" was the headline \_\_\_\_\_ of the page.
11. When Peter Jackson directed the movie he dressed \_\_\_\_\_ and baggy shorts every day.
12. I told my friend \_\_\_\_\_ message that I had gone \_\_\_\_\_ to New Zealand to visit the "The Lord of the Rings" filming locations.

### C: Speaking

Prepare a two minute speech describing your favorite movie. What type of movie is it? (e.g. horror, romance, comedy, action, mystery, etc.)

Give a short summary of the movie. Discuss the scenery, the acting, the story, the music and any special effects used. Explain why you liked the movie and describe how it made you feel.

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

**Please Note:** This lesson also has further exercises for your students to do online at [www.instantworkbook.com](http://www.instantworkbook.com). To get a username and password for your students, click on the blue icon next to this lesson description in the teachers' room at [www.english-to-go.com](http://www.english-to-go.com).

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Pair Discussion - Answers

- The movie "The Fellowship of the Ring" was filmed in New Zealand.
- The movie "Star Wars" was filmed in Morocco.

### B: Quiz - Answers

- c, 2. b, 3. b, 4. g, 5. d, 6. b.

### C. What Else Do You Know? - Notes

Get students to write down their perceptions of what they think New Zealand is like. You may have students in your class who have traveled or lived in New Zealand. You could ask them to describe what New Zealand is like.

## Reading Activities

### A: Taking Notes and Summarizing: 1 - Notes

The purpose of the **Taking Notes and Summarizing** activities is to give students practice reading, highlighting, note-taking and summarizing information from a news article. You may like to have pairs of students check their work by reading their summaries aloud to each other. They could then discuss differences and ways to improve their summaries. Students are given two opportunities to practice these skills in this lesson.

### A: Taking Notes and Summarizing: 1 - Sample Answer

The "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy was filmed in New Zealand and with the opening of the first movie, New Zealand wants to promote itself, not only as a wonderful place for Tolkien fans to visit, but as the best place to make movies. New Zealand has appointed a government minister to be Minister of the "The Lord of the Rings" to help promote New Zealand worldwide.

### B: Comprehension - Answers

- 3
- The Fellowship of the Ring.
- The film was filmed and made in New Zealand, which means that the New Zealand landscape provided all the backdrops.
- New Zealand is trying to promote and publicize itself as the place to make movies and as a great place for tourists to come and see amazing landscapes.
- Because he was able to film the movies using New Zealand's many varied landscapes as backdrops in the three movies.
- The volcanic Mount Doom.
- The gently rolling green countryside.
- So that someone with lots of power/influence could represent New Zealand's interests. In addition, the Minister would have been given a lot of government money to promote New Zealand.

### C: Taking Notes and Summarizing: 2 - Sample Answer

Entrepreneurs are trying to encourage visitors to visit New Zealand. For example, a tourist operator (or tour agency) has already booked fans to visit the locations where "The Lord of the Rings" was filmed even though the movie sets have been taken apart.

### D: True or False - Answers

- False (He is 'grabbing a share', which means there will be other tourist operators organizing travel.)
- False (The movie sets have been taken apart/dismantled.)
- True
- True

### E: Check Your Understanding - Answers

- c, 2. c, 3. b, 4. a, 5. b.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Research - Notes

If your students have a map of New Zealand, this will make the activity easier. After completing the exercise, students could describe their itineraries to the class either in groups or as individuals.

You may find the following websites useful:

- <http://nz.com>
- <http://www.purenz.com>
- <http://url.co.nz/nzl.html>
- <http://www.tourism.net.nz/>
- [http://www.tourisminfo.govt.nz/cir\\_home/index.cfm](http://www.tourisminfo.govt.nz/cir_home/index.cfm)

### B: Language - Answers

- All three movies of "The Lord of the Rings" were filmed **in New Zealand**.
- When we were filming **in the mountains**, it started to snow.
- Fortunately, there was nobody living **on the island** when we did the filming there.
- The ring **on his finger** made him disappear.
- The interviewer asked Peter if he would like sugar **in his coffee**.
- I am looking forward to seeing the next two movies **in the series** said the critic.
- Elijah Wood is one of the main actors **in the movie**.
- Peter Jackson's studios can be found **at the end** of a small suburban street in Wellington.
- There wasn't a cloud **in the sky** when we started filming the movie.
- "Come and visit New Zealand-Middle Earth" was the headline **at the top** of the page.
- When Peter Jackson directed the movie he dressed **in a T shirt** and baggy shorts every single day.
- I told my friend **in an e-mail** message that I had gone **on holiday** to New Zealand to visit the "The Lord of the Rings" filming locations.