

# #6 The History Behind the Movies

**Level:** Intermediate  
**Time:** 20-25 minutes  
**Activity Type:** Gap fill/ Pairwork - groupwork  
**Language Focus:** Past simple.  
**Taken from:** Top Class Activities 2



## Method

- 1 Ask the students to work in A- and B-groups. A-groups then look at stories 1 and 2; B-groups look at stories 3 and 4.
- 2 Give groups the infinitives in the box below. Check the students understand their meaning and then ask them to guess which verbs go with 'their' stories. There may be more than one possibility.

*die sink hit watch slide help remain  
choose smoke eat tell feel decide  
become put win receive grow sell  
come ear murder send find take catch  
explode think have return  
splash survive*

- 3 Exchange your stories with someone in one of the other groups (A->B; B->A). The other person should ask you questions about your story to see how much you remember. You then ask the other student about his/her story.  
As an alternative to 3, the teacher could write up question cues on the board so that the students can find out about each other's stories e.g. Why/Titanic/sink?

## Key

- 1 Titanic  
On 15 April 1912 more than 1500 people *died* in the icy waters of the North Atlantic when SS Titanic *sank* after it *hit* an iceberg. The survivors *watched* helplessly as the giant ship *slid* beneath the waves. Colonel John Jacob Astor *helped* his own new bride and many others into boats and then *remained* on the Titanic until the end. Some wives *chose* to die with their husbands rather than to be saved alone.

## 2 Ghandi

Mahatma Gandhi's parents were very religious but the young man secretly *smoked*, *ate* meat and *told* lies. However, he *felt* a lot of guilt and *decided* to change his behaviour for the rest of his life. Returning to India after working in South Africa, he *became* involved in non-violent political protest against the British, who *put* him in prison on many occasions. Indians eventually *won* their independence in 1947.

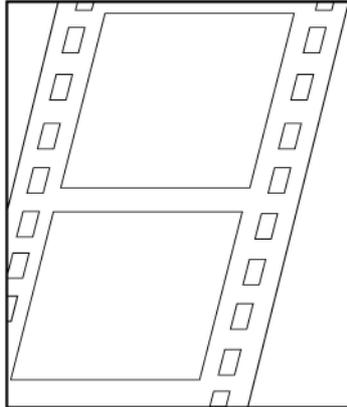
## 3 Scarface

In the 1920s gangsters *received* more press than the President of the United States. The most famous was 'Scarface' Al Capone who *grew* up in Brooklyn. Capone illegally *sold* alcohol, giving him an income of more than \$20 million dollars a year. He *came* through the Chicago gang wars by killing his rivals. In the St Valentine's Day massacre some of Capone's gang *wore* police uniforms and *murdered* seven members of the 'Bugs' Moran gang. In 1931 the authorities finally *sent* Capone to prison for tax evasion when they *found* a false bank account containing \$856,000.

## 4 Apollo 13

Apollo 13 *took* off for the moon on 11 April 1970. Unfortunately, 56 hours later some wires *caught* fire and an oxygen tank *exploded*. For a time the three astronauts – Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert – *thought* they would not be able to return to earth. They *had* to move to the one part of Apollo that was safe, and *returned* to the main part only for the final stage of the journey back to earth. Apollo *splashed* down in the Pacific on April 17. All the astronauts *survived*.

# #6 The history behind the movies

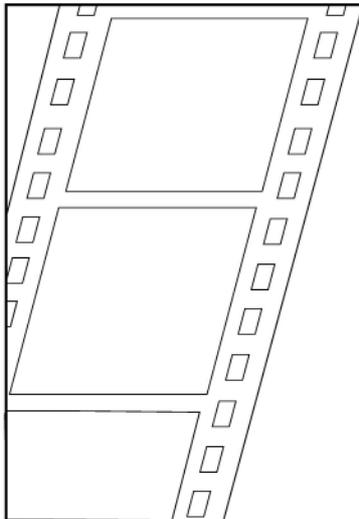
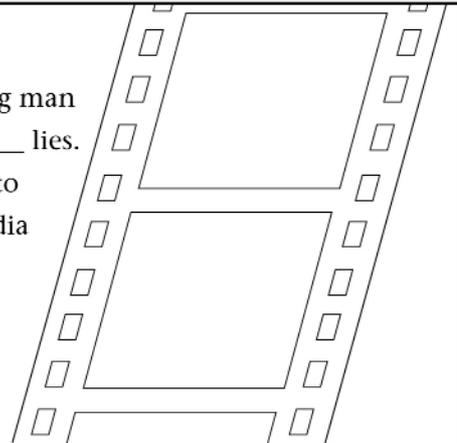


## 1 *Titanic*

On 15 April 1912 more than 1500 people (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the icy waters of the North Atlantic when SS Titanic (2) \_\_\_\_\_ after it (3) \_\_\_\_\_ an iceberg. The survivors (4) \_\_\_\_\_ helplessly as the giant ship (5) \_\_\_\_\_ beneath the waves. Colonel John Jacob Astor (6) \_\_\_\_\_ his own new bride and many others into boats and then (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on the Titanic until the end. Some wives (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to die with their husbands rather than to be saved alone.

## 2 *Gandhi*

Mahatma Gandhi's parents were very religious but the young man secretly (1) \_\_\_\_\_, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ meat and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ lies. However, he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of guilt and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to change his behaviour for the rest of his life. Returning to India after working in South Africa, he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ involved in non-violent political protest against the British, who (7) \_\_\_\_\_ him in prison on many occasions. Indians eventually (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their independence in 1947.



## 3 *Scarface*

In the 1920s gangsters (1) \_\_\_\_\_ more press than the President of the United States. The most famous was 'Scarface' Al Capone who (2) \_\_\_\_\_ up in Brooklyn. Capone illegally (3) \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol giving him an income of more than \$20 million dollars a year. He (4) \_\_\_\_\_ through the Chicago gang wars by killing rival gang members. In the St. Valentine's Day massacre some of Capone's gang (5) \_\_\_\_\_ police uniforms and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ seven members of the 'Bugs' Moran gang. In 1931 the authorities finally (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Capone to prison for tax evasion when they (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a false bank account containing \$856,000.

## 4 *Apollo 13*

Apollo 13 (1) \_\_\_\_\_ off for the moon on 11 April 1970. Unfortunately, 56 hours later some wires (2) \_\_\_\_\_ fire and an oxygen tank (3) \_\_\_\_\_. For a time the three astronauts – Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert – (4) \_\_\_\_\_ they would not be able to return to earth. They (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to move to the one part of Apollo that was safe, and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to the main part only for the final stage of the journey back to earth. Apollo (7) \_\_\_\_\_ down in the Pacific on April 17. All the astronauts (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

