

Video Teaching Notes: Report Units 7–9

Movie-making in Los Angeles

Report Summary

Topic: The Report is about movie-making in Los Angeles, California. It gives information about Hollywood.

Preparation: Ask some questions, *What do you know about Los Angeles? Would you like to go there? Why / Why not?*

Check students understand these words: *state, east, headquarters, industry, major, north, south, west*

Background: Los Angeles is also known as LA, or “the city of angels.” It’s the largest city in the state of California, and it’s the home of Hollywood. The area of Los Angeles has a wide range of geographical features including mountains, beaches, and wetlands. Its position near the “Pacific Ring of Fire” makes it vulnerable to earthquakes – the most recent serious earthquake being the Northridge Earthquake of 1995.

Before You Watch

Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students.

ANSWER

Students’ own answers.

Comprehension Check

- Watch the Report. Choose the correct answers.
Pre-watching: Go through the questions with the students.
 - What is the full name of the city known as LA?
 - When did four big movie companies move into Hollywood?
 - Which movie company still has its headquarters in Hollywood?



Play the whole Report. Students choose the correct answers. Check their answers with the Comprehension Check.

ANSWERS

2. a 3. b

- Watch the Report again. Circle the words you hear.
Pre-watching: Ask students to read the words and circle the ones they hear. Check their answers.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause after each word.

ANSWERS

coast, movie, sun, studios, directors

- Watch the Report again. Complete the summary with the words below.

Pre-watching: Ask students to read the summary and write the words before watching the Report again.



Play the Report again to check answers. Pause after each statement.

ANSWERS

2. three 3. center 4. weather 5. movies 6. writers

- Watch the Report again. Complete the statements with the correct words.

Pre-watching: Ask students to read the statements carefully and then circle the correct words in each statement.

Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

2. 4 3. neighborhoods 4. minimum 5. expensive 6. houses

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY Draw a nine-square grid on the board. Write a simple present verb in each square. Demonstrate how to play the game by pointing to a verb and eliciting the simple past, e.g. *drink (drank)*. Include some difficult verbs that will challenge your class, e.g. *bring (brought)*, *read (read)*, *break (broke)*. Students can play in pairs. Explain that they must spell and say the word correctly, to gain a point. If they make a mistake they lose a point. When they have finished they swap roles. The student with the most points is the winner.

Language Check

- Look at the chart.
Then watch the Language Check.

The past tense of be

By 1912 it **was** the center of the movie industry.

It **was** a great place to make movies.

The simple past tense

Irregular verbs

Hollywood **became** a part of Los Angeles in 1910.

Pre-watching: Review the grammar points by brainstorming irregular simple past forms on the board. Say the base form of a verb and elicit the simple past form. Write the letters as dashes on the board and elicit the correct spelling from individual students, e.g. _ _ _ _ _ (*wrote*)

Practice the past tense of *be* by asking questions and eliciting answers from the class, for example, *Was Sarah at school yesterday? (Yes, she was.) Where were you yesterday evening? (I was at home.) Was I your English teacher last year? (No, you weren't.)* etc.



Play the Language Check and pause when examples of the language appear. Ask students to listen and repeat.

- Rewrite each statement in the simple past.
Ask students to rewrite the statements in the simple past. Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

- Lots of actors and directors came to Hollywood.
- The weather was great on my vacation.
- Miramax was a major movie company.
- RKO had studios in Hollywood.
- She wrote the movie scripts on her laptop.

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7. Match the questions (1–5) with the answers (a–e).

Ask students to match the questions and answers.

Go through the answers with the class.

ANSWERS

2. d 3. e 4. a 5. c

About You!

8. Answer the questions about you.

Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students.

ANSWER

Students' own answers.

SCRIPT

California is a state on the west coast of the United States. It is a large state and it stretches from Mexico in the south up to the state of Oregon in the north.

There are three big cities in California: San Francisco in the north, San Diego in the south, and, between these two, Los Angeles.

Los Angeles – or LA – spreads across a large part of California. There are nearly 10 million people in Los Angeles County and nearly 4 million people in the city. It's a very busy city.

There are also lots of different neighborhoods in LA – places like Santa Monica on the coast, Pasadena in the east, and of course Hollywood – the home of the movies – in the center.

Hollywood became a part of Los Angeles in 1910, and by 1912 it was the center of the movie industry. By the 1920s the four major motion picture companies – Columbia, Warner Bros., RKO, and Paramount – had their studios here.

The movie industry here in Hollywood made most of the twentieth century's most famous movies. It was a great place to make movies because the weather in LA is almost always good. The sun shines a lot, and the minimum temperature in the winter is about twenty degrees centigrade. This is very useful because you need consistent, good weather to make movies.

A lot of major movie companies still have their headquarters in Hollywood. This is the headquarters of Sony Pictures. They are a major movie and television company. They make the *Spiderman* and *Men in Black* movies. Although the headquarters of the studios are in Hollywood, they do not make many movies here today, because it is too expensive.

In fact, many major movie companies don't make movies in LA anymore, and many of the old movie studios are now houses and malls. But the industry still employs lots of people in Hollywood. There are many actors, writers, and directors here.

And to a lot of people, Hollywood still represents the biggest movie industry in the world.