

NAME:

DATE:

*War of the Worlds* - 1938 Radio Drama

Orson Welles' radio adaptation of H.G. Wells' novel, *War of the Worlds*, allegedly caused widespread panic in America. Many listeners thought that the Earth was actually being invaded by malevolent Martians! We're going to listen to a recording of that famous radio broadcast.

*While listening to the radio drama, respond to the following questions. Write at least 3 sentences per question.*

1. Did the radio play hold your attention? What aspects were engaging? What aspects were not engaging?

2. Which techniques were effective in making the events of the play seem like they were actually occurring?

3. Was the outcome satisfying? Why, or why not?

4. Did you care what happened to any of the characters? Why, or why not?

5. How did the experience of listening to a radio drama compare with the experience of watching a movie?

6. Was the (unintended?) duping of the American public by Welles' Halloween broadcast something that could have happened only in the 1930s? Have Americans become more sophisticated in their consumption of media? Have you heard about any misinformation that has been passed on via the Internet as if it were correct information?