

Read the following text about prediction of the future. Answer the 20 questions. You may use a dictionary.

ABOUT A NEW WORLD

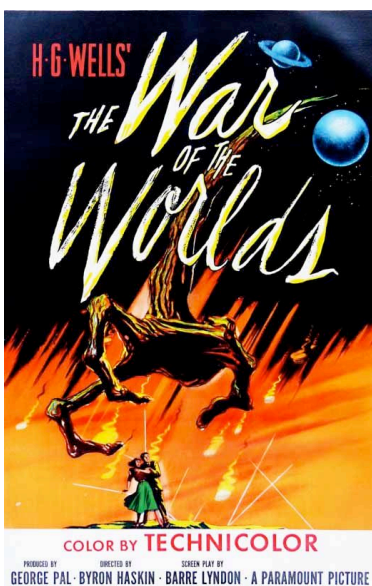
We are fascinated by the future, and excited by thinking about what might happen next. Through history, many people have tried to predict the future. Fortune-tellers and prophets utter words of doom and warning, while futurologists anticipate scientific and social changes by analyzing existing trends. Imagine our time without the motor car, telephones, computers, internet, the atom bomb, space travel, and discovery of DNA. They have all made a profound impact on us, but which of them were predicted to take place?

Palm reading is a popular form of prophesy. It originated in India and has been practised for hundreds of years. It is believed that a person's character and future can be discovered by the interpretation of the natural markings of their hands.

Reading cards is often used to predict the future. Before a reading can be made, the cards have to be shuffled, placed face down, then turned over one by one.

For centuries crystal-gazing was used by mystics and fortune-tellers to give predictions. But their utterances owed more to a knowledge of human nature than anything else.

In Greece, at the foot of Mount Parnassus, stood the temple of Apollo. Here Apollo spoke through his priestess, who predicted the future and gave guidance. Today, the closest we have to oracles are the futurologists whose predictions are based on scientific information.



The prophecies of Nostradamus were first published in the 16th century and many believe he accurately foretold the future. He is said to have predicted the Great Fire of London and air battles in the 20th century.

Science fiction writers are some of the most active forecasters of the future. A hundred years ago Jules Verne wrote dozens of stories set in a future world.

H.G. Wells wrote many science fiction novels, including The War of the Worlds in which the Earth is invaded by Martians.

COMPREHENSION TEST

Your Name:

1. Foretelling the future

- is very modern.
- has always been done.
- causes big social changes.

2. Nostradamus

- wrote hundreds of science fiction novels.
- predicted warplanes.
- discovered DNA.

3. Usually people are

- not interested in knowing about the future.
- fascinated by the future.
- afraid of the future.

4. To shuffle cards means

- to read cards.
- to mix cards.
- to turn over cards.

5. Apollo is

- a novel writer.
- a god.
- an inventor.

6. Prophets are

- Martians.
- forecasters of the future.
- scientists.

7. Analyzing existing trends is the job of the

- palm readers.
- futurologists.
- mystics.

8. Doom means

- everlasting happiness.
- not very clever.
- something evil that is to come.

9. The crystal ball

- was an invention of the 20th century.
- is used to predict the fate of people.
- is the only scientific method to read the future.

10. Palm reading is a popular form of prophesy.

- It's the interpretation of the natural markings on a person's hand.
- It's the most accurate method of predicting the future.
- It's based on scientific information.

11. Futurologists

- analyse trends of social and scientific changes.
- usually speak through a priestess.
- use either a crystal ball or cards.

12. What will happen to us in the future is often called

- knowledge.
- impact.
- fate.

13. An oracle is

- a prediction.
- a crystal ball.
- a marking on the hand.

14. Which is not an invention of the 20th century?

- atom bomb
- crystal ball
- telephone

15. Science fiction writers describe

- worlds we may know in the future.
- disasters like the Great Fire of London.
- knowledge of human nature.

16. Many people believe that Nostradamus

- accurately foretold the future.
- lived in Greece, at the foot of Mount Parnassus.
- wrote a book about the landing of Martians: War of the Worlds

17. Palm reading

- was practised in India for hundreds of years.
- was practised by Jules Verne.
- is never used by fortune-tellers.

18. Sometimes the utterances by fortune-tellers are owed

- to the novels by H.G. Wells.
- to a knowledge of human nature.
- the Delphic oracle.

19. Many inventions of the 20th century

- have made a deep impact on us.
- will be forgotten soon.
- existed already at Nostradamus' time.

20. To anticipate means

- forget what had happened.
- study history.
- see what is likely to happen.