

PLANET OF THE APES

Directed by Franklin J. Schaffner

Based on the novel "La planète des singes" by Pierre Boulle

Starring: Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Kim Hunter

Music by Jerry Goldsmith

Release date: 1968

Country: United States

Synopsis

An astronaut crew crash-lands on a planet in the distant future where intelligent talking apes are the dominant species, and humans are the oppressed and enslaved.

Review

The film provides an interesting commentary on the human condition. It is a social satire since the roles of apes and humans are inverted. Everything is parodied. The film is also a great anti-nuclear war statement.

Answer the following questions

1. In the building which houses the apes at the Bronx Zoo in New York, there is a legend "the most dangerous animal in the world". As you look through the bars, you find you are face-to.-face with a mirror!
Why do you feel this statement is made at the zoo? Do you think it is true?
1. What is the difference between a man-like ape and an ape-like man? What adaptive mechanisms of man have enabled him get the supremacy of the animal kingdom?
1. Why are Zira and her boyfriend Cornelius both considered to be heretics? Are they different from the rest of apes?
1. Taylor suffers the humiliation of being observed and studied in the laboratory by the apes. Should experiments with animals be banned?

1. The apes are divided into a strict caste system. Match the two columns

gorillas
orangutans
chimpanzees

administrators, politicians
intellectuals, scientists
police, military, hunters

1. What is Cornelius 's job?
1. Did Dr. Zaius know everything about man and the fact that human civilization existed before apes ruled the planet?
1. How many light years are the crew of spacemen aboard a flight from Earth? What year is it?
1. There is a region outside of Ape City called " the forbidden zone". Why is it forbidden?
1. Read the following dialogue.

Taylor: "Doctor, I 'd like to kiss you goodbye"

Dr. Zira: " All right, but you are so damned ugly!"

Do you find any kind of prejudice in Zira 's answer?

1. What did Taylor and Nova see half-submerged in the shoreline? Can you imagine what happened? Why does Taylor end up on the beach damning the human race all the hell?
1. Have you found the ending shocking? Do you think man may eventually bring about his own self-destruction?
1. Do we treat apes nowadays better than humans are treated by apes in the film?
1. Do you know anything about the creationist/evolutionist debate?