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Harry potter a journey through a history of magic pdf

Image: Warner Bros. The wizarding world of Harry Potter introduced us to many magical humans, creatures, and even buildings. If we learned anything from watching what goes on inside of Hogwarts, then we know that magical structures are far from simple. They have changing staircases, impenetrable barriers that allow certain people to go through, talking portraits and more. So we want you to take inspiration from all the magical buildings you've seen or heard of, dream up your very own house and in return, we'll tell you which Harry Potter character you are. Will your home end up being like the Weasley's? Warm, homey, cluttered, and a little beat up? The Burrow was an architectural wonder just because it was a mystery how it managed to stay standing with its uneven floors (before it burned down). Will your home be like Malfoy Manor? A magnificent and elaborate structure that lacked warmth and love and was also Voldemort's headquarters towards the end of the series. Or will your home be like #12 Grimmauld Place? A mixture of mysterious and homey? And will there be a disgruntled house-elf lurking in the corner somewhere?Whatever you decide to put in your magical home is up to you, but just make sure it represents your style. Are you ready to find out who you are? PERSONALITY Everyone Has a "Harry Potter" Character That Matches Their Soul. Who Are You? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min TRIVIA EASY We'll Give You Three Hints, You Name The Harry Potter Character 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min PERSONALITY Which Harry Potter Character Matches Your Dark Side? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min TRIVIA The Harry Potter Trivia Challenge 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Identify These Harry Potter Characters If We Remove Their Eyebrows? 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min TRIVIA Which Is It: Harry Potter Spell or Ikea Furniture? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Build a Disney Family and We'll Tell You Which Harry Potter Character You Are 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min TRIVIA There Are Over 200 Harry Potter Characters — We'll Be Impressed If You Can Name 40! 7 Minute Quiz 7 Min PERSONALITY React to These Harry Potter Situations and We'll Reveal Which Character You Really Are 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Only a Hogwarts Student Can Ace This "Harry Potter" Brainteaser Quiz 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is an octane rating? And how do you use a proper noun? Lucky for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers reliable, easy-to-understand explanations about how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to compelling photography and fascinating lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how stuff works, other times, we ask you, but we're always exploring in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stick with us! Playing quizzes is free! We send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. By clicking "Sign Up" you are agreeing to our privacy policy and confirming that you are 13 years old or over. Copyright © 2021 InfoSpace Holdings, LLC, a System1 Company Harry Potter's birthday is July 31st, which makes summer the perfect time to re-read the entire series. And if you still haven't caught up, now is the time — it's the perfect series to enjoy on the beach, in the park, or by the pool.Each Harry Potter book begins with summer, and though Harry is suck at Privet Drive for most of these months, you don't have to worry about the Dursleys. Instead, you can enjoy the long, warm days with a book and some Butterbeer ice cream, while you look forward to the next Fantastic Beasts movie(which, side note, will feature Jude Law as Dumbledore).Once upon a time, summers were when new Harry Potter books were released. I remember pre-ordering the books and waiting for them to arrive, and then spending all day and night reading. Now, we may not have more books from the original series being released in the summer, but you can still have a Potter-inspired summer. Every Potterhead can appreciate the importance of showing off your love of Harry Potter, but since it's too warm in July to wear a Hogwarts scarf, you have to get creative. The following Harry Potter items will allow you to have a truly enchanting summer.2Summer At The Burrow Wax Melt Hundreds of wannabe-magicians walk down a cobblestone street, lugging bags filled with wands, robes, and plush three-headed dogs. A dragon breathes fire atop a giant bank, where animatronic goblins lead visitors–some probably crying after waiting on a four-hour line–to a massive thrill ride, in which they have to smuggle gold past evil wizards without throwing up all the butterbeer they just drank.This is the recently opened Diagon Alley theme park in Orlando, Florida, a real-world re-creation of the magical shopping district described in J.K. Rowling's books. It's the newest expansion of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which opened four years ago at the Universal Studios Orlando Resort, and already includes a re-creation of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, with several rides. Millions of dollars went into building Diagon Alley and a not insignificant chunk of that went toward producing its meticulously detailed graphic and product design. To create the visuals, Universal Studios tapped MinaLima, a London-based design firm made up of Miraphora Mina (a witchy Rowling-esque name if we've ever heard one) and Eduardo Lima. The pair was the natural pick, as they'd already spent 10 years designing graphics for all eight Harry Potter films. They met on the set of The Chamber of Secrets and have worked together since, creating everything from the Marauders' Map to The Daily Prophet newspaper. The challenge was to design a theme park that wouldn't feel like a theme park.They reused much of their work from the films for the Diagon Alley theme park, but had to expand on these designs to create functional real-world shops. Their challenge was in designing a theme park that wouldn't feel like a theme park–to keep notoriously obsessive Harry Potter fans happy, the visuals had to be detailed enough to feel like an authentic equivalent of Diagon Alley, not some hokey facsimile in Florida. In the Harry Potter books, Rowling gives surprisingly little detail about how the graphics on various magical items or places looked–she often leaves specifics like color, lettering, and materials up to her readers' imaginations. When it came to making an authentic-feeling re-creation of Diagon Alley, this meant there wasn't a lot of written instruction to go on. "Rowling captures the essence of an object, but we were given free reign to create all the details," Mina says. They had to ask themselves questions to choose visual styles–what kind of character designed this, and when, and what were they trying to communicate? Rowling gives surprisingly little detail about how the graphics looked.To make a convincing re-creation of Weasley Wizard Wheezes, for example–the joke shop run by mischievous teenage twins Fred and George–MinaLima had to convey the sense that the products were designed by 16-year-old boys, not creative professionals. "We used all kinds of rudimentary printing techniques and clashing graphics for the Weasleys' products," Mina says–products like Skiving Snackbox, the Decoy Detonator, the Mad Blocks Potion, and U-No-Poo, filling the four-levels of the store. "We drew inspiration from childishly designed things like firecracker packaging." They intentionally opted for a mismatched, chaotic aesthetic. Diagon Alley is a jumble of as many contrasting aesthetics. To create these varied styles required researching different periods of design history for inspiration. "Harry Potter's world includes Gothic, Victorian, Soviet elements, '70s and '80s influences," Lima says. "When we designed The Daily Prophet, we knew it needed to be quite imposing-looking as a newspaper from the Ministry of Magic's totalitarian state, so we looked at Soviet propaganda images and mimicked their look."Their designs also had to convey Diagon Alley's age–it's not a brand-new mall, it's a historical shopping district dating back centuries (some fans estimate Ollivander's Wand Shop started in the 4th Century BC). MinaLima made much of their signage look intentionally weathered, with ghost-lettering, faded paint, and vintage wood. But they had to ensure that the signs don't actually become weathered–in windy Florida, they all had to be hurricane-proofed. Just when you thought J.K. Rowling's ubiquitous boy wizard couldn't conquer new territory, Harry Potter is making his official Broadway debut this weekend with the opening of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. The show was a huge hit on London's West End, and it's already crashing ceilings in New York: In previews, it just set a weekly box-office record for a nonmusical.Personally, I'm not a fan of the franchise, which is to say, I don't really know what a Muggle is and have never bothered to Google it. But given that the Potterverse has endured for more than two decades–and has a dedicated fan base that now spans generations–I was still curious about its capacity as a money-generating enterprise. How much is it actually worth? The most recent estimates seem to have been calculated last year, which marked the 20th anniversary of the first Harry Potter book. The Financial Times reported that Potter Inc. was a $25 billion business.That's a broad estimate, though. What's really interesting about the Potter franchise is how it's managed to dominate every possible medium–from books, movies, and live events, to the more recent stage show–and fans can be very particular about which they most prefer.So maybe the better question is: How much is Harry Potter worth to you? That's a question I can't answer, but for fun, I've rounded up a few stats below to help you think about it: It started as a kind gesture. It has become the ultimate party. To the children lining up to wait for the sales of the last installment of Harry Potter magic the bookstores' opening doors at midnight on Saturday (July 21) represent a portal to a new world. What changed an occasion to the ultimate event was just plain good customer service. The story opens with several children huddling at the front of bookstores for the release of one of the earlier books from the Potter series. And the bookstore staff reaching out into the parking lot or walkway with snacks and improvised entertainment. The distance was covered by the ingenuity and creativity of both – customers and sales staff. This imminent launch will be preceded by full scale book parties, handmade costume contests, card games, Potter trivia and even kids' section filled with multimedia entertainment. Music, costumes, train rides, and themed experiences. Included in some of the free parties are magicians, fortune-tellers, face painters and a story teller. And you still need to preorder the book. According to WashingtonPost.com, Barnes & Noble, the largest U.S. book retailer, said earlier in the month that preorders of the last book in the series rose to more than 1.2 million; the company's largest number of preorders the company has ever received. Amazon.com said it sold 2 million copies of the book worldwide. Scholastic Corp., the U.S. publisher of the series, is planning to release a record-breaking 12 million copies of Deathly Hallows. According to The Australian, the estimated number of copies that will be sold down under on the first day is 75,000. In Britain, Rowling will host a midnight launch under the shadow of dinosaur skeletons in the British Museum of Natural History for 500 specially selected fans. If customer service made the night, as it may be, did marketing make the day? Did all the publicity of the movies, the toys and games, the tie-ins, and wonderful word of mouth generated by the events, inspire children (and adults) to read? Did the spirit and magic of the Harry Potter's journey build enough momentum to save the idea that building fun and dialogue with customers is good for the heart and good for business? Valeria Maltoni • Conversation Agent • Philadelphia, PA • www.conversationagent.com Author J.K. Rowling's use of mythology, legends, ancient languages, botany, and astronomy in creating the world of Harry Potter is magical in itself: Just check out these 14 hidden messages in the Harry Potter books you never noticed. But did you know that some of the magical objects, places, and even people Rowling incorporated into her books are actually real? Readers of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone will remember that Nicolas Flamel was the only known maker of the Sorcerer's Stone, which can grant immortality: Flamel was over 600 years old in the book. In real life, Flamel was a medieval scholar, philanthropist, and alchemist who did, in fact, pursue the legendary stone. Alas, he didn't live to see his 600th birthday—he died in 1418, and his tombstone recently went on display at the Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibit in London and New York.AlchemyThis sounds like a made-up magical discipline, but alchemy, and alchemists like Nicholas Flamel, did actually exist—even physicist Isaac Newton dabbled in alchemy. A medieval forerunner to modern chemistry, alchemy was concerned with the transformation of substances through experimentation. Its practitioners also explored the spiritual and mystical aspects of transformation, which is why they were called "philosophers," as in the British title Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. And it could be why the best college ever uses Harry Potter to teach philosophy. Alchemists did, in real life, search for ways to make the stone, as well as transform lead into gold.MandrakeIn Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry and his fellow herbology students learn about mandrakes, whose roots take on human form and whose cries can kill you. Although they aren't deadly (unless potentially ingested at high doses), mandrakes are a real plant—and their roots do look like small human bodies. Native to the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, mandrakes were used for their medicinal properties. Rowling also didn't make up their supposedly fatal cries, as legend has it that the plant's screams can cause insanity and death. Shakespeare even mentions them in Romeo and Juliet: "…shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the earth, that living mortals, hearing them, run mad."King's Cross StationHarry and his friends board the Hogwarts Express to school via Platform 9¾ at King's Cross Station, accessible only to witches and wizards through a brick wall. Although the fictional fractional platform isn't real, King's Cross is a real London train station. "King's Cross, which is one of London's main railway stations, has a very personal significance for me because my parents met on a train to Scotland which departed from King's Cross station," J.K. Rowling wrote on the official Pottermore site. The real King's Cross took the Harry Potter connection in stride, even using it as a marketing opportunity. Fans can get their picture professionally taken (or you can take your own) with a luggage cart sticking partway into the wall. "It makes me beam proudly every time I pass," Rowling says. Be warned: Lines for photo ops can be long. Another "real" Potter location is the domicile used as Harry's old Godric's Hollow home in the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 film.BezoarSnape first mentions a bezoar to Harry Potter in Sorcerer's Stone, noting it can save people from most poisons. The lesson comes in handy when Harry used a bezoar to do exactly that for his friend Ron in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. But what is a bezoar? As Snape correctly explained, a bezoar is "a stone taken from the stomach of a goat"—or another animal; even humans have been known to have bezoars. They form from indigestible material, such as hair, that collects in the stomach and creates a mass. From the Persian word for "antidote," bezoars were thought to be a poison cure and became collectibles among the rich. Reportedly, Queen Elizabeth I had one set in a gold ring.RunesThis might be one of the tiny details you missed the first (and second) time you read Harry Potter: At Hogwarts, super-student Hermione is the only one of her friends to elect to study the language of Ancient Runes—which comes in handy in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, as Dumbledore leaves his copy of Tales of Beedle the Bard, which is written in runes and contains important clues, to her. Although they do take on a mystical significance in the Harry Potter books, runes were a real type of ancient alphabet used by the Germanic peoples of northern Europe and Scandinavia before they adopted the Latin alphabet. The Vikings often left runic inscriptions in places they visited. Harry Potter isn't the only modern magical tale to use runes: Disney fans might also recognize rune-like symbols in the Scandinavian-inspired Frozen.VeritaserumIn Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Dumbledore uses a truth potion on evil spy Barty Crouch, Jr.; in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Professor Umbridge threatens to use it on Harry (but Snape says his stash is out). A serum to make people tell the truth would be useful in the muggle world as well as the magical one, but does it really exist? Although they have their limitations and can't actually be used in official interrogations, some drugs, including barbiturates, have been used as truth serums. They may have the power to make users more honest or uninhibited in what they're willing to say, as it's harder for your brain to function and come up with lies when it's under the influence of these drugs.AsphodelProfessor Snape's first questions to Harry in his Year 1 Potions class sound like another language to the boy, who's just learned that he's a wizard. But the ingredients Snape lists aren't made up—they are real plants. "What would I get if I added powdered root of asphodel to an infusion of wormwood?" Snape asks. Asphodel is a type of tall white flowering plant, a relative of the lily and often associated with death—interesting, considering that Harry's deceased mother's name was Lily. Coincidence? Nope: here's the hidden meaning of Professor Snape's first words to Harry.WormwoodThe second item in Snape's question sounds like a bug that eats wood—but it's also a real plant. A pleasant-looking herb, wormwood was used to treat gastrointestinal problems (including parasitic worms), and its oil is also used in liquors including vermouth and absinthe. You may find it at the garden store by its Latin name, Artemisia absinthium. By the way, the answer to Snape's question is that asphodel and wormwood make Draught of Living Death.WolfsbaneSnape's final question in Harry's first Potions lesson is the difference between monkshood and wolfsbane—but it's a trick question, because they are actually the same plant, and a real one, too. Also known as aconite, it produces purple drooped flowers that look like the hook of a monk. But the flowers are very deadly—even brushing up against the plant may be enough to kill you, as reportedly happened to one British gardener in 2014. In the past, the poisonous plant was also used to kill wolves, hence the name "wolfsbane." In Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, wolfsbane is used to make a potion to ease Professor Lupin's werewolf symptoms.Invisibility cloakIt's one of Harry's most prized possessions: A cloak that renders the wearer invisible. But science has actually made some real-life objects invisible, even if these cloaks aren't yet available for the public. Scientists from the United Kingdom developed a "surface wave cloak" that manipulates electromagnetic waves to hide objects—even humans could be invisible if wireless sensors were placed on the body, the study author said. Researchers at the University of Rochester also discovered ways to make objects invisible using lenses to manipulate light. Yet other experiments in Montreal produced a "spectral cloak" that hides objects by changing the frequency of light as it hits them. Invisibility cloaks, rare in the wizarding world, may actually be more common here among muggles.Natalie McDonaldMost people think Nicolas Flamel is the only real person in the Harry Potter books, but that's not actually the case. Reportedly, a young fan named Natalie McDonald makes a cameo in Goblet of Fire, as the Sorting Hat sorts her into Gryffindor, the same Hogwarts house as Harry. A friend of the real McDonald, a terminal cancer patient from Toronto, wrote to J.K. Rowling and told her about McDonald's dire condition; Rowling wrote back, even revealing plot twists from future books. But sadly, McDonald didn't live to see the letter, so Rowling honored her in Goblet of Fire: "'I do hope this year's batch of Gryffindors are up to scratch,' said Nearly Headless Nick, applauding as 'McDonald, Natalie!' joined the Gryffindor table," Rowling wrote. "It was kind of a magical thing that happened in the year after Natalie died," McDonald's mother told Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper. These Harry Potter jokes are funny enough for print!Devil's snareThe real-life version of this plant won't slowly squeeze you to death like in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, but it is poisonous, and its spiky seedpods are devilishly creepy-looking. Also called jimsonweed and, officially, Datura stramonium, it's a nightshade plant, and waits until nighttime to open. Harry Potter's version also dislikes sunlight, and is known by the rhyme, "it's deadly fun, but will sulk in the sun." If you remember that, you may have what it takes for our Harry Potter quiz that only die-hard fans can ace.Hermione GrangerOK, so she's not exactly real, but the studious, ambitious, and serious "Hermione Granger" might as well be an alias for Rowling herself. "I have often said that Hermione is a bit like me when I was younger," she reportedly said. "I think I was seen by other people as a right little know-it-all, but I hope that it is clear that underneath Hermione's swottiness there is a lot of insecurity and a great fear of failure, as shown by her Boggart in Prisoner of Azkaban." (Hermione's Boggart, the thing that you're most afraid of, was Professor McGonagall telling her she'd failed everything.) Rowling has also said her favorite animal is an otter, so it's no surprise that Hermione's Patronus (a kind of spirit animal) is an otter, too. Want some more Harry Potter secrets? Check out what the cast really thought about their costumes.

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