



Words with power



On October 30th 1938 the Mercury Theatre company broadcast a radio play to the New York, USA area based on H. G. Wells' story *The War of the worlds*.

The story tells of a Martian invasion of Earth. The Martians had space ships, death rays and seemed ready to kill us all. Our most powerful weapons failed to even dent the spaceships! The story was told in a series of news flashes - rather like bulletins from wars are broadcast today.

Listeners who had tuned in after the introduction thought the invasion was real! Many roads in New York City were blocked with cars as people tried to escape the advancing Martians. Half way through the play an announcement told people it was not real - but still the panic continued.

Your task is to prepare a radio broadcast that is just as powerful. Your broadcast can be about any famous event or a major scientific discovery.

The rules are simple:

- The event must have happened before radio was invented - so there are no existing broadcasts.
- The programme must last less than 10 minutes.
- You have 45 minutes to plan and produce your broadcast.
- The final programme must be playable on a computer so that people can listen.

Your programme needs careful planning.

Think about:

- What happened?
- Who was there?
- Who did it affect?
- Why was the event or discovery important?

And remember, someone just reading out a script is boring!

Think about:

- Using more than one voice.
- Adding music or sound effects.
- Using short sentences - make sure the listeners get the message quickly!
- Give all the key information - don't leave out essential stuff.