

F FRANCES
LINCOLN

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THE BBC PUZZLE BOOK

Ian Smith
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Contents

Introduction	6
Timeline	8
BBC Radio	12
BBC Television	14
Entertainment	16
Drama	36
Comedy	70
Soap Opera	96
Sport	106
Music	114
Factual	126
Children's Television	154
Lifestyle	172
News, Weather and Current Affairs	184
Technology	206
Answers	214

DOCTOR WHO

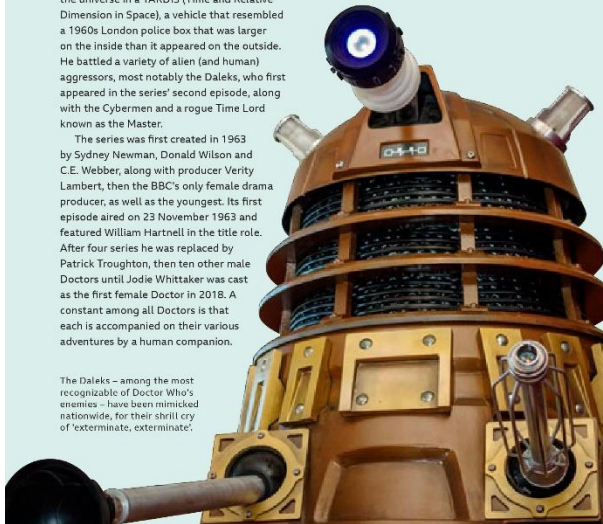
The longest-running science-fiction television series centres on an extra-terrestrial time-traveller capable of regeneration. The series takes us into the past and future, journeys through galaxies and across countless planets. But through it all, the Doctor not only appears to prefer humanity above all other species, they have a singular and timeless fascination with the notion of Britishness.

The Doctor was from the planet Gallifrey, the home to the Time Lords, and travelled the universe in a TARDIS (Time and Relative Dimension in Space), a vehicle that resembled a 1960s London police box that was larger on the inside than it appeared on the outside. He battled a variety of alien (and human) aggressors, most notably the Daleks, who first appeared in the series' second episode, along with the Cybermen and a rogue Time Lord known as the Master.

The series was first created in 1963 by Sydney Newman, Donald Wilson and C.E. Webber, along with producer Verity Lambert, then the BBC's only female drama producer, as well as the youngest. Its first episode aired on 23 November 1963 and featured William Hartnell in the title role. After four series he was replaced by Patrick Troughton, then ten other male Doctors until Jodie Whittaker was cast as the first female Doctor in 2018. A constant among all Doctors is that each is accompanied on their various adventures by a human companion.

The Daleks – among the most recognizable of Doctor Who's enemies – have been mimicked nationwide, for their shrill cry of 'exterminate, exterminate'.

The initial run of Doctors was from 1963 to 1989, when the series was cancelled due to declining popularity. An unsuccessful attempt to revive the show was made in 1996, before it was successfully regenerated, with Russell T. Davies at the helm, in 2005. Like the series' protagonist, the theme music, created by the innovative BBC Radiophonic Workshop, has undergone a number of mutations, but at its core remains the same piece that first introduced the Doctor to our world.

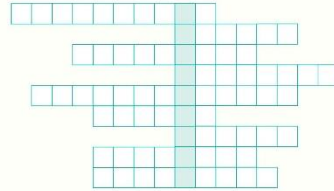


HIDDEN VILLAIN

Listed below are the names of nine of Doctor Who's adversaries, but there is a further villain hiding in the grid. Who is it?

Place each of the given entries into the grid, one per row and with one letter per box (reading left to right), so that the name of the tenth foe is revealed by reading down the shaded column. Spaces between words have been omitted.

AUTONS
CYBERMEN
DAVROS
SLITHEEN
THE MASTER
THE SILENCE
TOCLAFANE
WEEPING ANGELS
ZYGONS



RESTORING ORDER

Shown on this page are the first 13 Doctors, in no particular order. When the images are rearranged in chronological order of appearance, the clue letters in the bottom left-hand corner of each photo can be read off in order to spell out the name of one of the Doctor's companions.

Can you work out the order in which the doctors appeared, and therefore reveal which assistant has had their name jumbled across time and space? The image with no letter indicates a space between the companion's two names.



65

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Opening to the relaxing strains of composer Eric Coates' 'By the Sleepy Lagoon', *Desert Island Discs* has remained a mainstay of British radio and popular culture for 80 years. It is second only to the 'Grand Ole Opry' in the United States as the longest-running radio programme in the world.

A simple but remarkably effective interview format, the show imagines its guest on a desert island. They talk about their life as they name their eight chosen music tracks. At the end, they are accompanied on the island by a religious text, the works of William Shakespeare, a book and a 'luxury' of their choice, along with their favourite of the eight tracks.

The show was devised by Roy Plomley in 1941 after he and his wife were forced to return to England from France following the invasion of the German army. His first guest was actor and radio comedian Vic Oliver, and the show aired on 19 January 1942. Originally running for eight weekly shows, its popularity saw the BBC commission a further 15 shows.

In total, Plomley presented 1,791 editions before leaving the show in 1985. He was succeeded by Michael Parkinson, who hosted until 1988 before Sue Lawley took over and remained as host until 2006. She was replaced by Kirsty Young, who remained until 2018, when Lauren Laverne took over.

The addition of a choice of luxury and books was introduced in 1952, followed by a favourite track in 1959. By the time the show reached its 80th anniversary in 2022, it had aired more than 3,250 episodes.



Boxer Nicola Adams with Kirsty Young (left) and Paul McCartney (right), whose favourite disc was John Lennon's 'Beautiful Boy'.

146

FREQUENT CASTAWAY

Can you crack the number code and reveal the name of a guest who has appeared on *Desert Island Discs* a surprising four times? No other guest has appeared more often, although this is a record which they share with actor-comedian Arthur Askey.

Solve the crossword clues given opposite, filling in the solutions from left to right with one letter per box. Each solution box has been labelled with a number, with the same number replacing the same letter across the entire puzzle.

The fifth and sixth lines – shaded here – reveal the name of the guest, and can be completed by working out the letter associated with each number.

Clever

2 9 5 8 11 12

Inspiring of affection

1 3 7 1 2 3 5 8 8

Held dear

7 4 13 9 1 4

One who explores

7 4 10 1 3 12 6 9 1 8

4 7 10 5 4

7 12 12 1 2 2 12 9 12 6 8 11

PLAY IT AGAIN

The names of ten songs, all by the artist or group most frequently chosen by castaways on *Desert Island Discs*, have been clued below in rather literal ways. Can you solve all ten

clues and reveal the names of the ten pieces of music? Who is the artist or group? The lengths of the words in each clued song title are given in brackets after each clue.

Gather (4, 8)

Our closest star is arriving (4, 5, 3, 3)

Allow it to exist (3, 2, 2)

Only feelings of adoration are required (3, 3, 4, 2, 4)

Turdus merula (9)

During the soft lachrymation of my six-stringed instrument (5, 2, 6, 6, 5)

Alongside small amounts of assistance from my companions (4, 1, 6, 4, 4, 2, 7)

Rotate and yell (5, 3, 5)

Pastures of red, seeded fruits indefinitely (10, 6, 7)

The day immediately preceding today (9)

147