

Black Panther movie breaks box office records

21st February, 2018



The new superhero movie Black Panther is breaking box office records. It is the highest moneymaking debut ever for a February film. Disney, the movie's maker, estimated that the film has earned over \$361 million in its first three

days. The opening was the fifth highest-earning film ever. The movie has been helped by great reviews from critics. The movie review site Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 97 per cent rating. It is very rare for any movie to get such a high score. The Los Angeles Times newspaper compared Black Panther to a Star Wars movie. It said "Black Panther fever" took over Los Angeles. It added: "The film opened to the kind of fervor typically reserved for the latest offering in the Star Wars franchise."

Black Panther is the first Marvel superhero movie with an African-American in the title role. It also has a largely black cast and is directed by a black man. Many people of African descent have been showing their pride in the movie by attending movie theatres dressed in traditional African clothes. CNN writer Van Jones said the film was very important. He said: "This film is a godsend that will lift the self-esteem of black children in the US and around the world for a long time." A seventh-grade student who watched the film said: "For people of color, it shows us that we can get through any obstacles that are thrown at us if we work together. We can also help the world by sharing our resources."

Sources: npr.org / latimes.com / bloomberg.com

Writing

Children need superheroes. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

superhero / moneymaking / debut / million / critics / review / rare / fever / franchise / movie / role / cast / descent / pride / godsend / self-esteem / obstacles / resources

True / False

- Black Panther is the highest-earning movie ever. T / F
- The movie made over \$360 million on three days. T / F
- The movie scored over 95% on the Rotten Tomatoes review website. T / F
- A newspaper said the excitement was like a Star Wars movie debut. T / F
- The Black Panther has an all-black cast. T / F
- The article said cinemas requested people to wear African clothes. T / F
- CNN said the movie would make children believe in God. T / F
- The movie shows people of color can get through obstacles. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. breaking | a. ancestry |
| 2. debut | b. made |
| 3. earned | c. score |
| 4. rating | d. character |
| 5. fever | e. barriers |
| 6. role | f. smashing |
| 7. largely | g. blessing |
| 8. descent | h. excitement |
| 9. godsend | i. premiere |
| 10. obstacles | j. mainly |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why aren't there more movies with largely black casts?
- Should we all go to movie theatres dressed up?
- Why might this film "lift the self-esteem of black children"?
- Would you like to see Black Panther?
- Who is your favourite actor, and why?
- What obstacles have you got through?
- What questions would you like to ask the movie's producer?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. the film has earned over | a. franchise |
| 2. great reviews from | b. esteem of black children |
| 3. It is very rare for any movie to get such | c. role |
| 4. "Black Panther fever" took | d. cast |
| 5. the latest offering in the Star Wars | e. a high score |
| 6. an African-American in the title | f. any obstacles |
| 7. It also has a largely black | g. critics |
| 8. dressed in traditional | h. over Los Angeles |
| 9. lift the self- | i. \$361 million |
| 10. get through | j. African clothes |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Black Panther?
- What do you think of Disney movies?
- What is the best superhero movie ever?
- Would you like to be a movie critic?
- What's the best movie you've ever seen at the cinema?
- How important are superhero movies?
- What do you think of Star Wars movies?
- Is it better to watch a movie at home or at the cinema?

Spelling

- the highest moneymaking duebt
- emsetitda that the film has...
- drneae over \$361 million
- helped by great isverew from critics
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- the Star Wars rcseihnaf
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- people of African estdcen
- dressed in ntoiraiatl African clothes
- lift the self-teseme of black children
- any sastelboc that are thrown at us
- sharing our sucosrere

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. c	5. h
6. d	7. j	8. a	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Black Panther

You think Black Panther is the best superhero movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the least heroic of these (and why): Superman, Wonder Woman or X-Men.

Role B – Superman

You think Superman is the best superhero movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the least heroic of these (and why): Black Panther, Wonder Woman or X-Men.

Role C – Wonder Woman

You think Wonder Woman is the best superhero movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the least heroic of these (and why): Superman, Black Panther or X-Men.

Role D – X-Men

You think X-Men is the best superhero movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the least heroic of these (and why): Superman, Wonder Woman or Black Panther.

Speaking – Superheroes

Rank these with your partner. Put the best superhero movies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| • Wonder Woman | • Black Panther |
| • Justice League | • Superman |
| • Spiderman | • The Avengers |
| • X-Men | • Batman |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.