Snow Packet #2 Name:

John Williams  Period:

American composer and conductor John Williams has scored more than 100 films, including 'Jaws,' six 'Star Wars' movies, 'E.T.' and the first three 'Harry Potter' films.

John Williams was born in New York City on February 8, 1932. Williams—who studied at Juilliard—worked as a jazz pianist and studio musician before starting to compose for television and film. His career took off in the 1970s; since then, he has scored more than 100 films, including *Jaws* (1975), the *Star Wars* films, *E.T.* (1982) and *Schindler's List*(1993). Williams has won five Academy Awards and received a record-breaking array of nominations.

He attended the Juilliard School, studying with famed teacher Rosina Lhevinne in pursuit of his dream of becoming a concert pianist

Returning to Los Angeles, Williams became a movie studio musician. He was heard as a pianist on films such as Some Like It Hot (1959) and To Kill a Mockingbird (1962). Working with [Henry Mancini](https://www.biography.com/people/henry-mancini-9396934), Williams also played piano on the theme for the television program Peter Gunn. Soon, Williams was composing his own music for TV. Shows that received Williams's musical touch include Wagon Train, Gilligan's Island and Lost in Space.

Williams may be best known for his work with [Steven Spielberg](https://www.biography.com/people/steven-spielberg-9490621) and [George Lucas](https://www.biography.com/people/george-lucas-9388168). Almost all of Spielberg's films have Williams scores; their notable collaborations include Jaws (1975), E.T. (1982), Jurassic Park (1993), Schindler's List (1993), Catch Me If You Can (2002), Munich (2005) and Lincoln (2012). Williams also composed the music for George Lucas's six Star Wars movies. In 2013, it was announced that Williams would write the score for Episode VII of Stars Wars as well.

The impressive body of work that Williams has created includes music for many other movies, such as Superman (1978), The Witches of Eastwick (1987), Home Alone (1990), JFK (1991), Angela's Ashes (1999), the first three Harry Potterfilms, Memoirs of a Geisha (2005) and The Book Thief (2013). Williams is known for writing soaring scores that often feature recurring musical motives. In an ongoing career, he has worked on more than 100 film

Though Williams is best known for his film scores, he has written other music, including concert pieces and the themes for several Olympic Games. Williams also regularly works as a conductor: In 1980 he became the conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, a position he held until retiring in 1993. Williams still serves as a laureate conductor for the Pops, and has also conducted the London Symphony and popular concerts at the Hollywood Bowl.

1. What has been Williams contribution to the music world?
2. What was Williams primary instrument?
3. How many movies that Williams composed music for have you seen?