

BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF SIDNEY POITIER & CICELY TYSON

AGES 9-12

BOTWC Minis posing as
Sidney Poitier &
Cicely Tyson



GOALS ON THE ROAD
TO ACHIEVEMENT CANNOT
BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT
DISCIPLINE AND CONSISTENCY.

DENZEL WASHINGTON

THE SCENES OF THEIR LIVES

Instructions: Read each of the “scenes” from the lives of Sidney Poitier and Cicely Tyson, which have important details about their lives. Once you finish reading, complete a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts their lives.



SIDNEY POITIER

Scene 1: Poitier was born in the US to two Bahamian parents and he grew up in the Bahamas. At age 12 he left school to help support his family. As a teenager he came back to the US and **enlisted** in the army in the medical unit.

Scene 2: After leaving the army he went to New York and quickly found that he needed more. He just wanted to try for an **audition** but the **director** was very mean to him because of the way he talked and because he was not very good at reading. He took it as a challenge and decided to become an actor just to prove him wrong. He worked hard and even took a cleaning job for no pay so he could take acting classes.

Scene 3: Sidney got his first start when another actor, Harry Belafonte, was unable to appear in a play and Sidney took his place. Because of that he was seen and offered a small role. He didn't do the best on his first night but he was **charming**. Shortly afterwards, he was offered another job. In 1950, he acted in his first film, called *No Way Out*. He did many more roles in his life, but always refused parts that would show Black people in a bad way.

CICELY TYSON

Scene 1: Tyson was born on December 8th in New York. Her parents were also from the Caribbean, from an island called Nevis. She was very involved in the church and even played piano in church.

Scene 2: After graduating from high school, she went on to work at the Red Cross. Tyson's friend told her she should try modeling. She took their advice and had some success. She then starting taking acting classes. Her first **role** was on a show called Frontier on NBC in 1951.



Scene 3: Tyson did many plays and shows. She got into movies with the Harry Belafonte film called *Odds Against Tomorrow*. She was very careful about her roles. She wanted to make sure that her roles were positive. She would not play certain roles of Black women, such as drug addicts or maids. She had a very long acting career and was even taking roles into her 80s.

VENN DIAGRAM

SIDNEY POITIER

Scene 4: Sidney Poitier had many achievements on and off the screen. He was the first Black actor to win an **Oscar** in 1964. He had much success, right up until he died in January 2022 at 94 years old.

CICELY TYSON

Scene 4: Cicely Tyson inspired so many people. She was nominated for an **Oscar** in 1973. She had a long life of achievements. She died at 96 years old in January 2021.



SIDNEY POITIER

Write in facts only about
Sidney Poitier



Write facts they have in
Common!



Write in facts only about
Cicely Tyson



CICELY TYSON



SCRIPT YOUR SCENE

You have probably seen some movies. There is a lot of work that goes into them. The work is not just done by the actors – there is a lot of work that goes into it even before the actors get involved. To get a movie started there is someone with an idea that writes a script. They create scenes that come together to form the movies we see. You will follow the steps below so you can create your own movie scene.

Step 1: Find out where you want your scene and write a description of it.

Step 2: Determine what characters will be at your scene.

Step 3: Write your dialogue, which is the characters talking. They will talk to each other. What they say is really important. It shows who they are and makes the scene come alive.

Choose one of the prompts below and write your own movie scene:

- Imagine you are the master of the Universe.
- You're walking your dog in the park and suddenly he runs away.
- You are a dark wizard planning to rule the world.
- Your aunt is coming to stay and you're trying to convince your family you are allergic to her.
- You're sitting in the classroom minding your own business when suddenly everyone disappears.

See the example below, using this prompt: **An alien has crash-landed in the playground.**

It was an early morning before school started. There is a kid sitting on the bench alone at a wooden table. His friends are at the playground on the swings and slides. They are running around laughing and yelling, not paying attention to anything. Suddenly the wind starts to pick up and there is a huge round shape that is right beside the playground. No one seems to notice but the shape lands and the kid at the table sees that it's a spaceship.

Kid: Are y'all seeing this?

He turns to look at his friends but they are still playing at the playground as if nothing is happening

Kid: Heyyy, Christa look at this.

Christa walks toward him but she looks around like she is surprised.

Christa: I don't see anything. Are you okay? First you were sitting alone?

The Alien is now out of the ship and walking towards the kid. He walks straight up to Christa

Kid: Christa!

Christa: What? You really need to see the nurse

The kid finally realizes that no one else can see the alien. He turns and looks at the kid now.

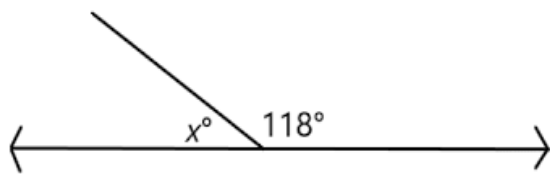
Alien: Justin. We came for you...

GETTING A GOOD ANGLE

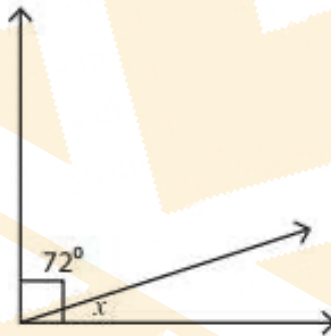
Instructions: There is a lot of math in film, even though it may not seem like it when you watch a movie. One of the most important parts is the shooting the film. That means getting the right angles to film the scenes. Below you will look at the angles and determine the missing parts. It may not feel like it but you are practicing a skill that a filmmaker would use.

Remember a circle is 360 degrees, a straight line is 180 degrees, and a right angle is 90 degrees.

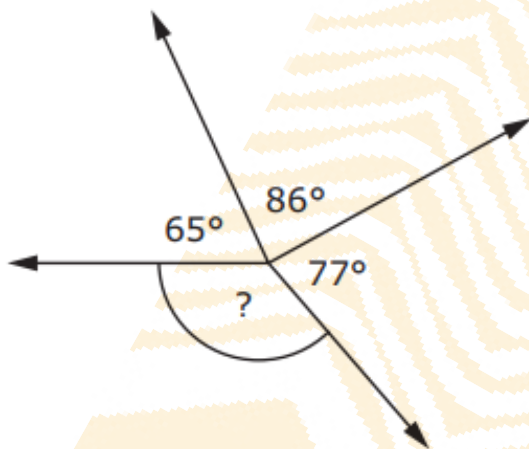
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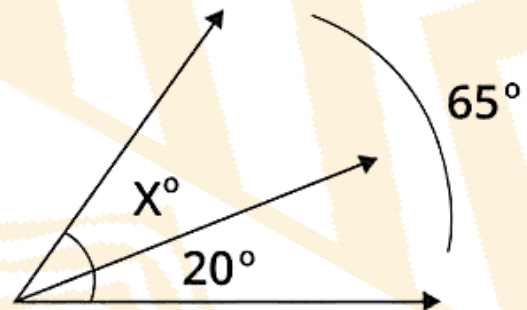
2.



3.



4.



ANSWER KEY: (1) 62 (2) 18 (3) 131 (4) 45

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.