

Star Wars

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Star Wars	
<div><div><h1>STAR WARS</h1></div></div>	
Created by	George Lucas
Original work	<i>Star Wars</i> (1977) ^[a]
Owner	Lucasfilm (The Walt Disney Company)
Print publications	
Novel(s)	List of novels
Comics	List of comics
Films and television	
Film(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Skywalker saga (9 films; 1977–2019)Anthology (2 films; 2016–2018) full list...
Television series	<i>The Mandalorian</i> (2019)
Animated series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Clone Wars</i> (since 2008)<i>Rebels</i> (2014–2018)<i>Resistance</i> (since 2018) full list...
Games	
Role-playing	List of RPGs
Video game(s)	List of video games
Audio	
Radio program(s)	List of radio dramas
Original music	Music
Miscellaneous	

Toys	Toys
Theme park attractions	List of theme park attractions

Star Wars is an American epic space opera franchise, created by George Lucas and centered around a film series that began with the eponymous 1977 movie. The saga quickly became a worldwide pop culture phenomenon.

The first film was followed by two successful sequels, *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) and *Return of the Jedi* (1983); these three films constitute the original *Star Wars* trilogy. A prequel trilogy was released between 1999 and 2005, albeit to mixed reactions from critics and fans. Finally, a sequel trilogy to conclude the nine-episode saga began in 2015 with *The Force Awakens*.^[1] The first eight films were nominated for Academy Awards (with wins going to the first two released) and were commercially successful, with a combined box office revenue of over US\$8.5 billion.^[2] Together with the theatrical spin-off films *The Clone Wars* (2008), *Rogue One* (2016), and *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), *Star Wars* is the second-highest-grossing film series of all time.^[3]

The film series has spawned into other media, including books, television shows, computer and video games, theme park attractions and lands, and comic books, resulting in significant development of the series' fictional universe. *Star Wars* holds a *Guinness World Records* title for the "Most successful film merchandising franchise". In 2018, the total value of the *Star Wars* franchise was estimated at US\$65 billion, and it is currently the fifth-highest-grossing media franchise.



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Setting



George Lucas created the franchise, wrote and directed Episodes I–IV, and co-wrote/produced Episodes V and VI. He has had limited involvement since 2012.

"Star Wars galaxy" redirects here. For the video game, see *Star Wars Galaxies*. For the comic series named *Star Wars Galaxy*, see *Star Wars (UK comics)*.

See also: *List of Star Wars planets and moons*

The *Star Wars* franchise depicts the adventures of characters "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."^[4] Many species of aliens (often humanoid) co-exist with droids who may assist them in their daily routines, and space travel between planets is common due to hyperspace technology.^{[5][6][7]} The rises and falls of different governments are chronicled throughout the saga: the democratic Republic is corrupted and overthrown by the Galactic Empire,^[8] which is fought by the Rebel Alliance. The Rebellion later gives rise to the New Republic and rebuilds society,^[9] but the remnants of the Empire reform as the First Order and attempt to destroy the Republic.^[10] Heroes of the former rebellion lead the Resistance against the oppressive dictatorship.

A mystical power known as "the Force" is described in the original film as "an energy field created by all living things ... [that] binds the galaxy together."^[11] Those whom "the Force is strong with" have quick reflexes; through training and meditation, they are able to perform various superpowers (such as telekinesis, precognition, telepathy, and manipulation of physical energy).^[12] The Force is wielded by two major knighthood orders at conflict with each other: the Jedi, who act on the light side of the Force through non-attachment and arbitration, and the Sith, who use the dark side through fear and aggression. The latter's members are intended to be limited to two: a master and their apprentice.^[13]

Theatrical films

Main article: List of Star Wars films and television series

The *Star Wars* film series centers around a "trilogy of trilogies" (also referred to as the "Skywalker saga"^[14] or the "*Star Wars* saga"). They were released out of sequence: the original (Episodes IV–VI, 1977–83), prequel (Episodes I–III, 1999–2005), and sequel (Episodes VII–IX, 2015–19) trilogy. The first two trilogies were released on three year intervals, the sequel trilogy films two years apart. Each trilogy centers on a generation of the Force-sensitive Skywalker family. The prequels focus on Anakin Skywalker, the original trilogy on his son Luke, and the sequels on Luke's nephew Kylo Ren.

A theatrical animated film, *The Clone Wars* (2008), was released as a pilot to a TV series of the same name. They were among the last projects overseen by George Lucas before the franchise was sold to Disney in 2012. An anthology series set between the main episodes entered development in parallel to the production of the sequel trilogy,^[14] described by Disney CFO Jay Rasulo as origin stories.^[15] The first entry, *Rogue One* (2016), tells the story of the rebels who steal the Death Star plans directly before *Episode IV*.^{[16][17]} *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018) focuses on Han's backstory, also featuring Chewbacca and Lando Calrissian.

An untitled trilogy by *Episode VIII*'s director Rian Johnson has been announced, with an additional film series by *Game of Thrones* creators David Benioff and D. B. Weiss also in development.

Skywalker saga

Prequel trilogy Original trilogy Sequel trilogy

Film	Release date	Director	Screenwriter(s)	Story by	Producer(s)	Initial distributor
<i>Episode IV</i> <i>A New Hope</i>	May 25, 1977	George Lucas			Gary Kurtz	20th Century Fox
<i>Episode V</i> <i>The Empire Strikes Back</i>	May 21, 1980	Irvin Kershner	Leigh Brackett and Lawrence Kasdan	George Lucas		

Film	Release date	Director	Screenwriter(s)	Story by	Producer(s)	Initial distributor
Episode VI <i>Return of the Jedi</i>	May 25, 1983	Richard Marquand	Lawrence Kasdan and George Lucas		Howard Kazanjian	
Episode I <i>The Phantom Menace</i>	May 19, 1999	George Lucas			Rick McCallum	
Episode II <i>Attack of the Clones</i>	May 16, 2002	George Lucas	George Lucas and Jonathan Hales	George Lucas		
Episode III <i>Revenge of the Sith</i>	May 19, 2005	George Lucas				
Episode VII <i>The Force Awakens</i>	December 18, 2015	J. J. Abrams	Lawrence Kasdan & J. J. Abrams and Michael Arndt		Kathleen Kennedy, J. J. Abrams and Bryan Burk	Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures
Episode VIII <i>The Last Jedi</i>	December 15, 2017	Rian Johnson			Kathleen Kennedy and Ram Bergman	
Episode IX	December 20, 2019	J. J. Abrams	J. J. Abrams & Chris Terrio ^{[18][19]}		Kathleen Kennedy, J. J. Abrams and Michelle Rejwan	

Original trilogy

Main article: Star Wars Trilogy



The central three characters of the original trilogy were played by Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker), Harrison Ford (Han Solo), and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia), respectively.

In 1971, George Lucas wanted to film an adaptation of the *Flash Gordon* serial, but couldn't obtain the rights, so he began developing his own space opera.^{[20][6]} After directing *American Graffiti* (1973), he wrote a two-page synopsis titled *Journal of the Whills*, which 20th Century Fox decided to invest in.^{[21][22][23]} By 1974, he had expanded the story into the first draft of a screenplay, and continued writing more polished drafts.^[24] Lucas negotiated to retain the sequel rights,^[25] and was offered an initial \$150,000 to write, produce, and direct the film.^{[25][26]} *Star Wars* was released on May 25, 1977. Its success led Lucas to make it the basis of an elaborate film serial.^[27]

With the backstory he created for the sequel, Lucas decided that the series would be a trilogy of trilogies,^[28] Most of the main cast would return for the two additional installments of the original trilogy, which were self-financed by Lucasfilm. The original film was retitled *Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope* for a 1981 rerelease.^[29] *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* was released in May 1980, also achieving wide financial and critical success. The final film in the trilogy, *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* was released in May 1983. The story of the original trilogy focuses on Luke Skywalker's quest to become a Jedi, his struggle with the evil Imperial agent Darth Vader, and the struggle of the Rebel Alliance to free the galaxy from the clutches of the Empire.

Prequel trilogy

Main article: Star Wars prequel trilogy



The central trio of the prequel trilogy was played by Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker), Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi), and Natalie Portman (Padmé Amidala), respectively.

According to producer Gary Kurtz, loose plans for a prequel trilogy were developed during the outlining of the original two films.^[30] In 1980, Lucas confirmed that he had the nine-film series plotted,^[31] but due to the stress of producing the original trilogy and pressure from his wife to settle down, he had decided to cancel further sequels by 1981.^[32]

Technical advances in the late 1980s and early 1990s, including the ability to create computer-generated imagery, inspired Lucas to consider that it might be possible to revisit his saga. In 1989, Lucas stated that the prequel trilogy would be "unbelievably expensive."^[33] The popularity of the franchise had been prolonged by the *Star Wars* expanded universe, so that it still had a large audience. A theatrical rerelease "updated" the original trilogy with the style of CGI envisioned for the new films.

Episode I: The Phantom Menace was released on May 19, 1999, and *Episode II: Attack of the Clones* on May 16, 2002, both to mixed reviews. *Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, the first PG-13 film in the franchise, was released on May 19, 2005.^[34] The plot of the trilogy focuses on the fall of the Galactic Republic, the formation of the Empire, and the tragedy of Anakin Skywalker's turn to the dark side.

Sequel trilogy

Main article: Star Wars sequel trilogy





The main cast of the sequel trilogy is played by Daisy Ridley(Rey), John Boyega (Finn), Adam Driver (Kylo Ren), and Oscar Isaac (Poe Dameron), respectively.

Prior to releasing the original film, and made possible by its success, Lucas planned "three trilogies of nine films."^{[28][35]} He announced this to *Time* in 1978,^[36] and confirmed that he had outlined them in 1981.^[37] At various stages of development, the sequel trilogy was to focus on the rebuilding of the Republic,^[38] the return of Luke in a role similar to that of Obi-Wan in the original trilogy (and with a female love interest),^{[39][35]} Luke's sister (not yet determined to be Leia),^[30] Han, Leia,^[40] R2-D2 and C-3PO.^{[28][41]} However, after beginning work on the prequel trilogy, Lucas insisted that *Star Wars* was meant to be a six-part series and that there would be no sequel trilogy.^{[42][43]}

Lucas decided to leave the franchise in the hands of other filmmakers, announcing in January 2012 that he would step away from making blockbuster films.^[44] In October 2012, The Walt Disney Company agreed to buy Lucasfilm and announced that *Episode VII* would be released in 2015.^[45] The co-chairman of Lucasfilm, Kathleen Kennedy, became president of the company and served as executive producer of new *Star Wars* feature films.^[46] The sequel trilogy also meant the end of the existing *Star Wars* expanded universe, which was discarded to give "maximum creative freedom to the filmmakers and also preserve an element of surprise and discovery for the audience."^[47]

The sequel trilogy focuses on the journey of the orphaned scavenger Rey following in the footsteps of the Jedi with the guidance of the reluctant last Jedi, Luke Skywalker. Along with ex-stormtrooper Finn, she helps the Resistance led by Leia fight the First Order commanded by Supreme Leader Snoke and his pupil Kylo Ren (Han Solo and Leia's son). *Episode VII: The Force Awakens* was released on December 18, 2015, *Episode VIII: The Last Jedi* on December 15, 2017, and *Episode IX* is due to be released on December 20, 2019.

Standalone films

In his initial planning following the success of *Star Wars*, Lucas planned a few standalone films separate from the Skywalker saga.^[28] Theatrical films outside the main episodic series have their origin in the Ewok spin-off films *Caravan of Courage: An Ewok Adventure* (1984) and *Ewoks: Battle for Endor* (1985), which were screened internationally after being produced for television. Although based on story ideas from Lucas, they do not bear *Star Wars* in their titles, and were considered to exist in a lower level of canon than the episodic films.

After the conclusion of his then six-episode saga in 2005, Lucas continued developing spin-offs in the form of television series and theatrical films.

Film	Release date	Director	Screenwriter(s)	Story by	Producer(s)	Composer	Initial distributor
<i>Star Wars: The Clone Wars</i>	August 15, 2008	Dave Filoni	Henry Gilroy & Steven Melching & Scott Murphy		George Lucas and Catherine Winder	Kevin Kiner	Warner Bros. Pictures
<i>Rogue One: A Star</i>	December 16, 2016	Gareth Edwards	Chris Weitz and Tony Gilroy	John Knoll and Gary Whitta	Kathleen Kennedy, Allison	Michael Giacchino	Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

Film	Release date	Director	Screenwriter(s)	Story by	Producer(s)	Composer	Initial distributor
<i>Wars Story</i>					Shearmur and Simon Emanuel		
<i>Solo: A Star Wars Story</i>	May 25, 2018	Ron Howard	Jon Kasdan & Lawrence Kasdan			John Powell John Williams	

Preceding the airing of the animated TV series in late 2008, the theatrical feature *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* was compiled from episodes "almost [as] an afterthought."^{[48][49]} It reveals that Anakin trained an apprentice between *Attack of the Clones* and *Revenge of the Sith*; the series explains Padawan Ahsoka Tano's absence from the latter film. The character was originally criticized by fans, but by the end of the series the character had become a fan favorite.^{[50][51]} It exists in the same level of canon as the episodic and anthology films.^[52]

Anthology films

Further information: List of Star Wars films and television series § Anthology films

Before selling Lucasfilm to Disney in 2012, and parallel to his development of a sequel trilogy, George Lucas and original trilogy co-screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan started development on a standalone film about a young Han Solo.^[14] On February 5, 2013, Disney CEO Bob Iger made public the development of the Kasdan film, along with an undisclosed film written by Simon Kinberg.^[53] Disney CFO Jay Rasulo has described the standalone films as origin stories.^[15]

Lucasfilm and Kennedy have stated that the standalone films would be referred to as the *Star Wars* anthology series^[16] (albeit the word anthology has not been used in any of the titles, instead carrying the promotional "*A Star Wars Story*" subtitle. Focused on how the rebels obtained the Death Star plans from the 1977 film, the first anthology film, *Rogue One*, was released on December 16, 2016 to favorable reviews and box office success. The second, *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, centered on a young Han Solo with Chewbacca and Lando as supporting characters, was released on May 25, 2018 to mixed reviews and underperformance at the box office. Despite this, more anthology films are expected to be released.^[54]

Planned spin-off series

In November 2017, Lucasfilm announced that Rian Johnson, the writer/director of *The Last Jedi*, would be working on a new trilogy. The films will reportedly differ from the Skywalker-focused films in favor of focusing on new characters. Johnson is confirmed to write and direct the first film.^[55]

In February 2018, it was announced that David Benioff and D. B. Weiss would write and produce a series of *Star Wars* films that are not Skywalker-focused films, similar to (but separate from) Rian Johnson's upcoming installments in the franchise.^[56]

Television and internet

TV films and specials

Further information: List of Star Wars films and television series § TV films and specials

Film	Release date	Director(s)	Screenwriter(s)	Network	Setting	Canon
<i>Holiday Special</i>						
<i>Holiday Special</i>	November 17, 1978	David Acomba and Steve Binder	Bruce Vilanch	CBS	Between <i>A New Hope</i> and <i>The Empire Strikes Back</i>	No
Ewok television films						
<i>Caravan of Courage: An Ewok Adventure</i>	November 25, 1984	John Korty	Bob Carrau <hr/> Story by: George Lucas rowspan="2" ABC rowspan="2" Between <i>A New Hope</i> and <i>Return of the Jedi</i> rowspan="2" No			
<i>Ewoks: The Battle for Endor</i>	November 24, 1985	Jim Wheat and Ken Wheat	Jim Wheat and Ken Wheat <hr/> Story by: George Lucas			

A two-hour *Star Wars Holiday Special* focusing on Chewbacca's family was produced for CBS in 1978. Along with the stars of the original film, celebrity guest stars appear in plot-related skits and musical numbers. Lucas loathed the special and forbade it to be reaired or released on home video.^[57] An 11-minute animated sequence features the first appearance of bounty hunter Boba Fett.

The Ewoks from *Return of the Jedi* were featured in two spin-off television films, *The Ewok Adventure* and *Ewoks: The Battle for Endor*. Both aired on ABC on the Thanksgiving weekends of 1984 and 1985, respectively. Warwick Davis reprised his debut role as the main Ewok, Wicket, in a story by Lucas and a screenplay by Bob Carrau. Wicket helps two children rescue their parents from a giant creature.^{[58][59]} In the sequel, the Ewoks protect their village from invaders, while a child from the first film tries to escape.^{[60][58][61]}

Animated series

Further information: *List of Star Wars films and television series § Animated series*

Title	Seasons	Episodes	Release year	Supervising Director	Production company	Network	Setting	Canon
<i>Droids</i>	1	13	1985–86	N/A	Nelvana	ABC	Between <i>Revenge of the Sith</i> and <i>A New Hope</i>	No
<i>Ewoks</i>	2	35	1985–86				Before <i>Return of the Jedi</i>	
<i>Clone Wars</i>	3	25	2003–05	Genndy Tartakovsky	Cartoon Network Studios	Cartoon Network	Between <i>Attack of the Clones</i> and <i>Revenge of the Sith</i>	
<i>The Clone Wars</i>	6	121	2008–2014; 2019	Dave Filoni	Lucasfilm Animation	Cartoon Network (Season 1–5) Netflix (Season 6) Disney+ (Season 7)		
<i>Rebels</i>	4	75	2014–18	Dave Filoni (Season 1-2) Justin Ridge (Season 3-4)		Disney XD	Between <i>Revenge of the Sith</i> and <i>A New Hope</i>	Yes
<i>Forces of Destiny</i>	2	32	2017–	Dave Filoni		YouTube	Across all eras	
<i>Resistance</i>	1	N/A	2018			Disney XD	Between <i>Return of the Jedi</i> and <i>The Force Awakens</i>	

Nelvana, the animation studio that had animated the animated segment of the *Holiday Special* was hired to create two animated series. *Droids* (1985–1986), which aired for one season on ABC, follows the adventures of C-3PO and R2-D2 before the events of *A New Hope*.^{[60][62][63]} Its sister series *Ewoks* (1985–1987) features the Ewoks before *Return of the Jedi* and the Ewok movies.^{[60][63]}



Dave Filoni, supervising director on two *Star Wars* animated series, was later promoted to oversee the development of future Lucasfilm Animation projects.^[64]

After the release of *Attack of the Clones*, Cartoon Network produced and aired the micro-series *Clone Wars* from 2003 to weeks before the 2005 release of *Revenge of the Sith*, as the series featured events set between those films.^{[65][66]} It won the Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Animated Program in 2004 and 2005.^{[67][68]}

Lucas decided to invest in creating his own animation company, Lucasfilm Animation, and used it to create his first in-house *Star Wars* CGI-animated series. *The Clone Wars* (2008–2014) was introduced through a 2008 animated film of the same name.^[69] Both were accepted to the highest level canon in 2014; all series released afterwards would also be canon.^{[52][70]} In 2014, Disney XD began airing *Star Wars Rebels*, the first CGI-animated series produced in the new era. Set between *Revenge of the Sith* and *A New Hope*, it follows a band of rebels as they fight the Galactic Empire and helped close some of the arcs in *The Clone Wars*.^{[71][72][73][74]} The animated microseries *Star Wars Forces of Destiny* debuted in 2017, focusing on the female characters of the franchise.^[75] The animated series *Star Wars Resistance* debuted in late 2018, is anime-inspired, and focuses on a young Resistance pilot shortly before *The Force Awakens*.^[76]

Live-action series

Further information: List of Star Wars films and television series § Live-action series

When Lucasfilm was sold to Disney, this reportedly included 50 written scripts for a proposed live-action television series with the working title *Star Wars: Underworld*.^[77] The series was to be set between the prequel and original trilogies and focus on the criminal and political power struggles as the Empire took over the galaxy.^{[78][77]} As of November 2018, Disney has not moved forward with that project but has expressed interest in expanding *Star Wars* into live-action television.

With their upcoming planned direct-to-consumer streaming service, Disney+, it has been reported that multiple live-action series are in development.^{[79][80]}

Visual effects studio Industrial Light & Magic, a subsidiary of Lucasfilm, opened a new division in November 2018 targeted for streaming and episodic television called ILM TV.^[81] Based in London with support from the company's locations in San Francisco, Vancouver, and Singapore, it's expected the new division will work extensively on any current and future live-action *Star Wars* television series, starting with *The Mandalorian*.^[81]

The Mandalorian

Main article: The Mandalorian

In November 2017, Bob Iger discussed the development of a *Star Wars* series for Disney+, due to launch in 2019.^[82] It was announced in March 2018 that Jon Favreau, who voiced the characters in *The Clone Wars* and in *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, will produce and write one of the television series.^[83] Entitled *The Mandalorian*, it will be set three years after *Return of the Jedi* and center on a lone gunfighter in the outer reaches of the galaxy.^{[84][85][86]} Production on 10 episodes of the series began in October 2018, with a reported budget of \$100 million.^[87]

Untitled Cassian Andor series

In November 2018, Lucasfilm announced that development on a live-action Cassian Andor "spy thriller" series for Disney+ had also begun. Diego Luna will reprise his role from *Rogue One*, and production is planned to begin in 2019 with Stephen Schiff as the showrunner.^{[88][89]}

In other media

Main article: Star Wars expanded to other media

From 1977 to 2014, the term *Expanded Universe* (EU) was an umbrella term for all officially licensed *Star Wars* storytelling material set outside the events depicted within the theatrical films, including novels, comics, and video games.^[90] Lucasfilm maintained internal continuity between the films and television content and the EU material until April 25, 2014, when the company announced all of the EU works would cease production. Existing works would no longer be considered canon to the franchise and subsequent reprints would be rebranded under the *Star Wars Legends* label,^[90] with downloadable content for the massively multiplayer online game *The Old Republic* the only *Legends* material to still be produced. The *Star Wars* canon was subsequently restructured to only include the existing six feature films, the animated film *The Clone Wars* (2008), and its companion animated series. All future projects and creative developments across all types of media would be overseen and coordinated by the story group, announced as a division of Lucasfilm created to maintain continuity and a cohesive vision on the storytelling of the franchise.^[52] Multiple comics series from Marvel and novels published by Del Rey were produced after the announcement.

Print media

Star Wars in print predates the release of the first film, with the December 1976 novelization of *Star Wars*, subtitled "*From the Adventures of Luke Skywalker*". Credited to Lucas, it was ghostwritten by Alan Dean Foster.^[91] The first "Expanded Universe" story appeared in Marvel Comics' *Star Wars* #7 in January 1978 (the first six issues being an adaptation of the film), followed by Foster's sequel novel *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* the following month.

Novels

Further information: List of Star Wars books



Timothy Zahn authored the *Thrawn* trilogy, which was widely credited with revitalizing the dormant *Star Wars* franchise.

After penning the novelization of the original film, Foster followed it with the sequel *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* (1978). The novelizations of *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) by Donald F. Glut and *Return of the Jedi* (1983) by James Kahn followed, as well as *The Han Solo Adventures* trilogy (1979–1980) by Brian Daley,^[92] and *The Adventures of Lando Calrissian* (1983) trilogy by L. Neil Smith.^{[93][60]}

Timothy Zahn's bestselling *Thrawn* trilogy (1991–1993) reignited interest in the franchise and introduced the popular characters Grand Admiral Thrawn, Mara Jade, Talon Karrde, and Gilad Pellaeon.^{[94][95][96][97]} The first novel, *Heir to the Empire*, reached #1 on the *New York Times* Best Seller list,^[98] and the series finds Luke, Leia, and Han facing off against tactical genius Thrawn, who is plotting to retake the galaxy for the Empire.^[99] In *The Courtship of Princess Leia* (1994) by Dave Wolverton, set immediately before the *Thrawn* trilogy, Leia considers an advantageous political marriage to Prince Isolder of the planet Hapes, but she and Han ultimately marry.^{[100][101]} Steve Perry's *Shadows of the Empire* (1996), set between *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, was part of a multimedia campaign that included a comic book series and video game.^{[102][103]} The novel introduced the crime lord Prince Xizor, another popular character who

would appear in multiple other works.^{[102][104]} Other notable series from Bantam include the *Jedi Academy* trilogy (1994) by Kevin J. Anderson,^{[105][106]} the 14-book *Young Jedi Knights* series (1995–1998) by Anderson and Rebecca Moesta,^{[106][107]} and the *X-wing* series (1996–2012) by Michael A. Stackpole and Aaron Allston.^{[108][109][110]}

Del Rey took over *Star Wars* book publishing in 1999, releasing what would become a 19-installment novel series called *The New Jedi Order* (1999–2003). Written by multiple authors, the series was set 25 to 30 years after the original films and introduced the Yuuzhan Vong, a powerful alien race attempting to invade and conquer the entire galaxy.^{[111][112]} The bestselling multi-author series *Legacy of the Force* (2006–2008) chronicles the crossover of Han and Leia's son Jacen Solo to the dark side of the Force; among his evil deeds, he kills Luke's wife Mara Jade as a sacrifice to join the Sith. Although no longer canon, the story is paralleled in *The Force Awakens* with Han and Leia's son Ben Solo, who has become the dark Kylo Ren.^{[113][114][115][116]}

Three series set in the prequel era were introduced for younger audiences: the 18-book *Jedi Apprentice* (1999–2002) chronicles the adventures of Obi-Wan Kenobi and his master Qui-Gon Jinn in the years before *The Phantom Menace*; the 11-book *Jedi Quest* (2001–2004) follows Obi-Wan and his own apprentice, Anakin Skywalker in between *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*; and the 10-book *The Last of the Jedi* (2005–2008), set almost immediately after *Revenge of the Sith*, features Obi-Wan and the last few surviving Jedi. *Maul: Lockdown* by Joe Schreiber, released in January 2014, was the last *Star Wars* novel published before Lucasfilm announced the creation of the *Star Wars Legends* brand.^{[117][118][119]}

Although Thrawn had been designated a *Legends* character in 2014, he was reintroduced into the canon in the 2016 third season of *Rebels*, with Zahn returning to write more novels based in the character, and set in the new canon.^{[120][121]}

Comics

Main articles: Star Wars comics and List of Star Wars comic books

Marvel Comics published a *Star Wars* comic book series from 1977 to 1986.^{[122][123][124][125]} Original *Star Wars* comics were serialized in the Marvel magazine *Pizzazz* between 1977 and 1979. The 1977 installments were the first original *Star Wars* stories not directly adapted from the films to appear in print form, as they preceded those of the *Star Wars* comic series.^[126] From 1985–1987, the animated children's series *Ewoks* and *Droids* inspired comic series from Marvel's Star Comics line.^{[127][128][129]}

In the late 1980s, Marvel dropped a new *Star Wars* comic it had in development, which was picked up by Dark Horse Comics and published as the popular *Dark Empire* series (1991–1995).^[130] Dark Horse subsequently launched dozens of series set after the original film trilogy, including *Tales of the Jedi* (1993–1998), *X-wing Rogue Squadron* (1995–1998), *Star Wars: Republic* (1998–2006), *Star Wars Tales* (1999–2005), *Star Wars: Empire* (2002–2006), and *Knights of the Old Republic* (2006–2010).^{[131][132]}

After Disney's acquisition of Lucasfilm, it was announced in January 2014 that in 2015 the *Star Wars* comics license would return to Marvel Comics,^[133] whose parent company, Marvel Entertainment, Disney had purchased in 2009.^[134] Launched in 2015, the first three publications were titled *Star Wars*, *Darth Vader*, and the limited series *Princess Leia*.^{[135][136][137]}

Audio

Soundtracks and singles

Further information: Music of Star Wars

Audio novels

Further information: List of Star Wars books

Radio

Further information: Star Wars (radio)

Radio adaptations of the films were also produced. Lucas, a fan of the NPR-affiliated campus radio station of his alma mater the University of Southern California, licensed the *Star Wars* radio rights to KUSC-FM for US\$1. The production used John Williams' original film score, along with Ben Burt's sound effects.^{[138][139]}

The first was written by science fiction author Brian Daley and directed by John Madden. It was broadcast on National Public Radio in 1981, adapting the original 1977 film into 13-episodes.^{[140][138][139]} Mark Hamill and Anthony Daniels reprised their film roles.^{[140][138]}

The overwhelming success, led to a 10-episode adaptation of *The Empire Strikes Back* debuted in 1983.^[141] Billy Dee Williams joined the other two stars, reprising his role as Lando Calrissian.^[142]

In 1983, Buena Vista Records released an original, 30-minute *Star Wars* audio drama titled *Rebel Mission to Ord Mantell*, written by Daley.^{[139][143]} In the 1990s, Time Warner Audio Publishing adapted several *Star Wars* series from Dark Horse Comics into audio dramas: the three-part *Dark Empire* saga, *Tales of the Jedi*, *Dark Lords of the Sith*, the *Dark Forces* trilogy, and *Crimson Empire* (1998).^[143] *Return of the Jedi* was adapted into 6-episodes in 1996, featuring Daniels.^{[138][143]}

Video games

Further information: Star Wars video games and List of Star Wars video games

The first officially licensed *Star Wars* electronic game was Kenner's 1979 table-top *Star Wars* Electronic Battle Command.^{[144][145]} In 1982, Parker Brothers published the first *Star Wars* video game for the Atari 2600, *The Empire Strikes Back*.^[146] It was followed in 1983 by Atari's rail shooter arcade game *Star Wars*, which used vector graphics and was based on the Death Star trench run scene from the 1977 film.^[147] The next game, *Return of the Jedi* (1984), used more traditional raster graphics,^[148] with the following game *The Empire Strikes Back* (1985) returning to vector graphics.^[149]

Star Wars was released for Nintendo in 1991, followed by a sequel the next year. *Super Star Wars* was also released in 1992, followed by two sequels over the next two years.

Lucasfilm had started its own video game company in 1982, becoming known for adventure games and World War II flight combat games. In 1993, LucasArts released *Star Wars: X-Wing*, the first self-published *Star Wars* video game and the first space flight simulation based on the franchise.^[150] It was one of the best-selling games of 1993, and established its own series of games.^[150] The *Rogue Squadron* series released between 1998 and 2003 also focused on space battles set during the films.

Dark Forces (1995), a hybrid adventure game incorporating puzzles and strategy,^[151] was the first *Star Wars* first-person shooter.^[152] It featured gameplay and graphical features not then common in other games, made possible by LucasArts' custom-designed game engine, the Jedi.^{[152][151][153][154]} The game was well received,^{[155][156][157]} and followed by four sequels.^{[158][159]} The series introduced Kyle Katarn, who would appear in multiple games, novels, and comics.^[160] Katarn is a former stormtrooper who joins the rebellion and becomes a Jedi,^{[152][161][162]} a plot arc similar to that of Finn in *The Force Awakens*.^[113]

A massively multiplayer online role-playing game, *Star Wars Galaxies*, was in operation from 2003 until 2011. Disney partnered with Lenovo to create the augmented reality game *Jedi Challenges*, released in November 2017.^{[163][164]} In August 2018, it was announced that Zynga would publish free-to-play *Star Wars* mobile games.^[165]

Theme park attractions

Main article: List of Star Wars theme parks attractions

In addition to the Disneyland ride Star Tours (1987) and its renovation as Star Tours – The Adventures Continue (2011), many live attractions have been held at Disney parks, including the traveling exhibition Where Science Meets Imagination, the Space Mountain spin-off Hyperspace Mountain, a walkthrough Launch Bay, and the nighttime *A Galactic Spectacular*. An immersive themed area called Galaxy's Edge is planned for Disneyland and Walt Disney World in 2019,^[166] and a themed hotel will open at Walt Disney World in mid-2019.^[167]

Title	Park(s)	Opening date	Closing date	Status
Live attractions				
Star Tours	Disneyland	January 9, 1987	July 27, 2010	Closed
	Tokyo Disneyland	July 12, 1989	April 2, 2012	
	Disney's Hollywood Studios	December 15, 1989	September 7, 2010	
	Disneyland Paris	April 12, 1992	March 16, 2016	
<i>Star Wars</i> Weekends	Disney's Hollywood Studios	1997	2015	
<i>Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination</i>	Multiple locations	October 19, 2005	March 23, 2014	
Jedi Training Academy	Disneyland	July 1, 2006	November 15, 2015	
	Disney's Hollywood Studios	October 9, 2007	October 5, 2015	
Star Tours – The Adventures Continue	Disney's Hollywood Studios	May 20, 2011	–	Operating
	Disneyland	June 3, 2011	–	
	Tokyo Disneyland	May 7, 2013	–	
	Disneyland Paris	March 26, 2017	–	
<i>Star Wars</i> Hyperspace Mountain	Disneyland	November 14, 2015	May 31, 2017	Closed
	Hong Kong Disneyland	June 11, 2016	–	Operating
	Disneyland Paris	May 7, 2017	–	
<i>Star Wars</i> Launch Bay	Disneyland	November 16, 2015	–	
	Disney's Hollywood Studios	December 4, 2015	–	
	Shanghai Disneyland Park	June 16, 2016	–	
Jedi Training: Trials of the Temple	Disney's Hollywood Studios	December 1, 2015	–	Operating
	Disneyland	December 8, 2015	–	

	Disneyland Paris	July 11, 2015	–	
	Hong Kong Disneyland	June 25, 2016	–	
<i>Star Wars: A Galactic Spectacular</i>	Disney's Hollywood Studios	June 17, 2016	–	

Multimedia projects

A multimedia project involves works released across multiple types of media. *Shadows of the Empire* (1996) was a multimedia project set between *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* that included a novel by Steve Perry, a comic book series, a video game, and action figures.^{[102][103]} *The Force Unleashed* (2008–2010) was a similar project set between *Revenge of the Sith* and *A New Hope* that included a novel, a 2008 video game and its 2010 sequel, a graphic novel, a role-playing game supplement, and toys.^{[168][169]}

Merchandising

Main articles: Kenner Star Wars action figures, List of Kenner Star Wars action figures, Star Wars: The Vintage Collection, Lego Star Wars, List of Lego Star Wars sets, Star Wars trading card, and Star Wars role-playing games

The success of the *Star Wars* films led the franchise to become one of the most merchandised franchises in the world. While filming the original 1977 film, George Lucas decided to take a \$500,000 pay cut to his salary as director in exchange for full ownership of the franchise's merchandising rights. The first six films produced approximately US\$20 billion in merchandising revenue.^[26]

Kenner made the first *Star Wars* action figures to coincide with the release of the film, and today the original figures are highly valuable. Since the 1990s, Hasbro holds the rights to create action figures based on the saga. Pez dispensers began to be produced in 1997.^[170] *Star Wars* was the first intellectual property to be licensed in Lego history.^[171] Lego has produced animated parody short films and mini-series to promote their *Star Wars* sets.^[172] The Lego *Star Wars* video games are critically acclaimed bestsellers.^{[173][174]}

In 1977, the board game *Star Wars: Escape from the Death Star* was released,^[175] not to be confused with the board game with the same name published in 1990.^[176] A *Star Wars Monopoly* and themed versions of *Trivial Pursuit* and *Battleship* were released in 1997, with updated versions released in subsequent years. The board game *Risk* has been adapted in two editions by Hasbro: *The Clone Wars Edition* (2005)^[177] and the *Original Trilogy Edition* (2006).^[178] Three *Star Wars* tabletop role-playing games have been developed: a version by West End Games in the 1980s and 1990s, one by Wizards of the Coast in the 2000s, and one by Fantasy Flight Games in the 2010s.

Star Wars trading cards have been published since the first "blue" series, by Topps, in 1977.^[179] Dozens of series have been produced, with Topps being the licensed creator in the United States. Some of the card series are of film stills, while others are original art. Many of the cards have become highly collectible with some very rare "promos", such as the 1993 Galaxy Series II "floating Yoda" P3 card often commanding US\$1,000 or more. While most "base" or "common card" sets are plentiful, many "insert" or "chase cards" are very rare.^[180] From 1995 until 2001, Decipher, Inc. had the license for, created and produced a collectible card game based on *Star Wars*; the *Star Wars Collectible Card Game* (also known as SWCCG).

Themes

See also: Star Wars sources and analogues

Aside from its well-known science fictional technology, *Star Wars* features elements such as knighthood, chivalry, and princesses that are related to archetypes of the fantasy genre.^[181] The *Star Wars* world, unlike science fiction that features sleek and futuristic settings, is portrayed as dirty and grimy. Lucas' vision of a "used future" was further popularized in the science fiction films *Alien*,^[182] which was set on an aged space freighter; *Mad Max 2*, which is set in a post-apocalyptic desert; and *Blade Runner*, which is set in a crumbling, dystopian city of the future. Lucas made a conscious effort to parallel scenes and dialogue between films, and especially the journey of Anakin Skywalker in the prequels with that of his son Luke.

Historical influences

Political science has been an important element of *Star Wars* since the franchise launched in 1977, focusing on a struggle between democracy and dictatorship. McQuarrie's designs for Darth Vader, initially inspired by Samurai armor, also incorporated a German military helmet.^{[183][184]} Space battles in *A New Hope* were based on World War I and World War II dogfights,^[185] and stormtroopers borrow the name of Nazi "shock" troopers. Imperial officers wear uniforms resembling those of German forces during World War II,^[186] and political and security officers resemble the black-clad SS down to the stylized silver death's head on their caps. World War II terms were used for names in the films; *e.g.* the planets Kessel (a term that refers to a group of encircled forces) and Hoth (Hermann Hoth was a German general who served on the snow-laden Eastern Front).^[187]

Palpatine being a chancellor before becoming the Emperor in the prequel trilogy alludes to Adolf Hitler's role as chancellor before appointing himself *Führer*.^[186] Lucas has also drawn parallels to historical dictators such as Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Richard Nixon.^{[188][189][c]} The Great Jedi Purge mirrors the events of the Night of the Long Knives.^[190] The corruption of the Galactic Republic is modeled after the fall of the democratic Roman Republic and the formation of an empire.^{[191][192]}

On the inspiration for the First Order formed "from the ashes of the Empire", *The Force Awakens* director J.J. Abrams spoke of conversations the writers had about how the Nazis could have escaped to Argentina after WWII and "started working together again."^[10]

Cultural impact

Main article: Cultural impact of Star Wars



The lightsaber and the blaster have become an iconic part of the franchise and have appeared throughout popular culture.

The *Star Wars* saga has had a significant impact on popular culture,^[193] with references to its fictional universe deeply embedded in everyday life.^[194] Phrases like "evil empire" and "May the Force be with you" have become part of the popular lexicon.^[195] The first *Star Wars* film in 1977 was a cultural unifier,^[196] enjoyed by a wide spectrum of people.^[197] The film can be said to have helped launch the science fiction boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s, making science fiction films a blockbuster genre and mainstream.^[198] The widespread impact made it a prime target for parody works and homages, with popular examples including *Hardware Wars*, *Spaceballs*, *The Family Guy Trilogy*, *Robot Chicken: Star Wars*, and its sequels *Star Wars – Episode II* and *Episode III*.

In 1989, the Library of Congress selected the original *Star Wars* film for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry, as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."^[199] *The Empire Strikes Back*, was selected in 2010.^{[200][201]} 35mm reels of the 1997 Special Editions were the versions initially presented for preservation because of the difficulty of transferring from the original prints,^{[202][203]} but it was later revealed that the Library possessed a copyright deposit print of the original theatrical releases.^[204]

Industry

The original *Star Wars* film was a huge success for 20th Century Fox, and was credited for reinvigorating the company. Within three weeks of the film's release, the studio's stock price doubled to a record high. Prior to 1977, 20th Century Fox's greatest annual profits were \$37 million, while in 1977, the company broke that record by posting a profit of \$79 million.^[185] The franchise helped Fox to change from an almost bankrupt production company to a thriving media conglomerate.^[205]

Star Wars fundamentally changed the aesthetics and narratives of Hollywood films, switching the focus of Hollywood-made films from deep, meaningful stories based on dramatic conflict, themes and irony to sprawling special-effects-laden blockbusters, as well as changing the Hollywood film industry in fundamental ways. Before *Star Wars*, special effects in films had not appreciably advanced since the 1950s.^[206] The commercial success of *Star Wars* created a boom in state-of-the-art special effects in the late 1970s.^[205] Along with *Jaws*, *Star Wars* started the tradition of the summer blockbuster film in the entertainment industry, where films open on many screens at the same time and profitable franchises are important.^{[207][197]} It created the model for the major film trilogy and showed that merchandising rights on a film could generate more money than the film itself did.^[196]

Fan works

Main article: Star Wars fan films















The *Star Wars* saga has inspired many fans to create their own non-canon material set in the *Star Wars* galaxy. In recent years, this has ranged from writing fan fiction to creating fan films. In 2002, Lucasfilm sponsored the first annual Official *Star Wars* Fan Film Awards, officially recognizing filmmakers and the genre. Because of concerns over potential copyright and trademark issues, however, the contest was initially open only to parodies, mockumentaries, and documentaries. Fan fiction films set in the *Star Wars* universe were originally ineligible, but in 2007, Lucasfilm changed the submission standards to allow in-universe fiction entries.^[208] Lucasfilm has allowed but not endorsed the creation of fan fiction, as long as it does not attempt to make a profit.^[209]

Academia

As the characters and the storyline of the original trilogy are so well known, educators have used the films in the classroom as a learning resource. For example, a project in Western Australia honed elementary school students storytelling skills by role-playing action scenes from the movies and later creating props and audio/visual scenery to enhance their performance.^[210] Others have used the films to encourage second-level students to integrate technology in the science classroom by making prototype lightsabers.^[211] Similarly, psychiatrists in New Zealand and the US have advocated their use in the university classroom to explain different types of psychopathology.^{[212][213]}

See also

-  **United States portal**

-  **Film in the United States portal**
-  **Television in the United States portal**
-  **Animation portal**
-  **Cartoon portal**
-  **Comics portal**
-  **Toys portal**
-  **Video games portal**
-  **Star Wars portal**
-  **Science fiction portal**
-  **1970s portal**
-  **1980s portal**
-  **1990s portal**
-  **2000s portal**
-  **2010s portal**
- *Architecture of *Star Wars**
- *Empire of Dreams: The Story of the *Star Wars* Trilogy*
- Jedi census phenomenon
- Jediism
- List of *Star Wars* creatures
- Physics and *Star Wars*
- Wookieepedia: The *Star Wars* Wiki
- 501st Legion
- *Star Wars* Celebration
- *Star Wars* Day
- Music of *Star Wars*
- *Star Wars* documentaries
- *The Story of *Star Wars**
- Technology in *Star Wars*
- List of space science fiction franchises

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Informational notes

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3. ^ In his early drafts, Lucas borrowed the plot point of Nixon's stated intention to run for a third term with the support of the military in defiance of the 22nd Amendment. (Kaminski 2008)

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