

Name: _____

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Hollywood Sign in Los Angeles

The Hollywood Sign is a landmark and American icon located in Los Angeles, California. It is located on Mount Lee in the Hollywood Hills area of the Santa Monica Mountains. The sign overlooks Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Hollywood is spelled out in 14 meter tall, white capital letters and is 110 meter long. It was originally created in 1923 as an advertisement for a local real estate development. It got increasing recognition so it was left up. The sign was a frequent target of pranks and vandalism. A security system was installed to deter vandalism. Its surrounding land is part of Griffith Park. From the ground, the hills give the sign its wavy appearance.

The sign was first erected in 1923 and originally read Hollywoodland.” The whole sign was studded with 4,000 light bulbs. The sign would flash in segments, “Holly”, “Wood” and “Land” before lighting up entirely. Below the Hollywoodland sign was a searchlight to attract more attention. The poles that supported the sign were brought to the site by mules. The sign was supposed to last a year and a half, but after the rise of the American cinema in Los Angeles, the sign became an internationally recognized symbol and was left there.

In 1949, it was decided to remove “Land” to reflect the area and not the housing development. The lightbulbs were also taken out. By the 1970s, the first O had broken and it looked like a lowercase ‘u’ and the third O had fallen down. The sign read, “HuLLYWO D.”

In 1978, nine donors gave \$27,777.77 to total \$250,000. It was used to replace the letters. The new letters were made of steel supported by steel columns on a concrete foundation. The new letters were 14 m tall and ranged from 9.4 to 11.9 m wide. The new sign was unveiled on November 11, 1978.