1. What does *Apocalypse Now* suggest is "the horror"?
2. What insight does *Apocalypse Now* provide into why the Vietnam War was being fought?
3. Why does the army want Willard to kill Kurtz? How has Kurtz displeased them in a way that Lt. Col. Kilgore, for instance, hasn't?
4. Is Kilgore a "bad guy"? Is he different from Kurtz? How?
5. Why is Kurtz committing atrocities and putting heads on stakes? What's his reason for using these tactics?
6. What does the way the soldiers react to the Playboy Playmates indicate about how the war has affected them?
7. Why does Kurtz let Willard kill him?
8. How has Willard's journey changed him by the movie's end?
9. Are people really under the control of their most primitive urges, as the film suggests?
10. What's the purpose of the film's trippy, psychedelic imagery?
11. What was it about the Vietnam War that lent itself to a *Heart of Darkness* adaptation?
12. Assess the opening of Coppola's film. How does it set up the movie?
What particular techniques are used?
13. How does Willard's voice-over narration function in this film? How might this compare with Marlow's narration?
14. Willard says that to tell Kurtz's story is to tell his own. Comment.
15. Willard wonders about the difference between Colonel Kilgore and Kurtz. Is there any?
16. What do you notice about the scene in which Chef encounters the tiger?
How is this filmed? What conclusion does Willard draw at the end of it?
17. As they head up river, Willard ponders the career of Kurtz, and his own. What does he have to say about his own actions? How does he characterize them in terms of morality and insanity?
18. What is the significance of the scene in which Willard kills the Vietnamese girl?
19. The photojournalist says that Kurtz is clear in his mind but insane in his soul. Discuss.
20. Describe the final scene during which Kurtz is killed.
What does Willard say about his impending assassination?
How is this scene filmed and dramatized?