

1 EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - HELICOPTER SHOT - DAY 1

A white snowscape races toward camera ... the MAIN TITLE quickly recedes, followed by a roll-up.

Episode V:

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK ...

After the destruction of its most feared battle station, the Empire has declared martial law throughout the galaxy.

A million worlds have felt the oppressive hand of the Emperor as He attempts to crush the growing rebellion.

As the Imperial grip of tyranny tightens, Princess Leia and the small band of freedom fighters search for a more secure base of operations ...

The roll-up disappears into the black horizon.

2 EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - HELICOPTER SHOT - DAY 2

The camera tilts down bringing into view a small figure galloping across the windswept ice slope.

3 EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - DAY 3

A closer panning shot reveals a bundled rider on a large gray snow lizard, called a TAUNTAUN. Curving plumes of snow rise from beneath the speeding paws of the two-legged beast.

4 EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - SLOPE - DAY 4

The rider gallops up a slope and reins his lizard to a stop.

5 EXT PLAINS OF HOTH - SLOPE - DAY 5

He pulls off his protective goggles. It is LUKE

SKYWALKER. He notices something in the sky and takes a pair of electro-binoculars from his utility belt.

6 EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - LUKE'S POV - DAY 6

From LUKE'S POV, we follow a bright object as it falls to the ground. On the distant horizon, an explosion marks the point of impact.

7 EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - SLOPE - DAY 7

The wind whips at Luke's fur-lined cap as he activates a com-link transmitter. His lizard is nervous.

LUKE

(to the Tauntaun)

Easy girl, it's just another meteorite.

(into com-link)

Han ... Han ol' buddy, do you read me?

After a little static a familiar voice is heard.

HAN (OS)

(filtered)

Loud and clear, kid. What's up?

LUKE

I've finished my circle and I haven't picked up any life readings.

HAN (OS)

(filtered)

There isn't enough life on this ice cube to fill a space cruiser. My sentry markers are placed. I'm heading back to the base.

LUKE

I'll see you shortly.
A meteorite just hit the ground near here and I want to check it out .. Won't be long.

Luke clicks off his transmitter and reins back on his lizard, which seems frightened. Luke pats the beast on the head to calm it.

LUKE

Weeho, girl! What's the matter
... you smell something? There's
nothing out there. I'll check
again ...

Luke takes a small device from his belt and starts to adjust it when suddenly a large shadow falls over him from behind, followed by a monstrous HOWL. Luke turns and looks up at an eleven foot high shape towering over him.

LUKE

Son of a jumping ...!!!

He grabs for his pistol, but is HIT flat in the face by a huge, white claw, knocking him into the snow, bloody and unconscious.

Luke falls unconscious into the snow. The terrified screams of the Tauntaun are cut short by the horrible snap of a neck being broken.