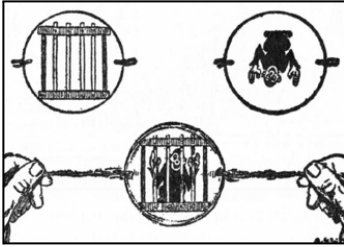


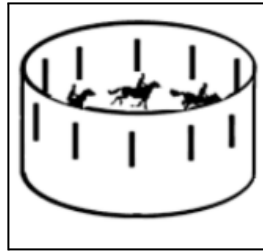
The Golden Age of Film: Silent Film & the Birth of "Talkies"

I. Origins of film

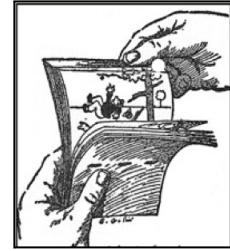
- a. The first simple short films were shown in the U.S. in the 1890s.
- b. Early film efforts (1800s)



Thaumatrope



Zoetrope



Kineograph (flip book)



Stereoscope

- i. How did these inventions contribute to early film?

- c. In 1893 the **kinetoscope** (short films seen through a view-finder) was invented -> led to the start of penny arcades where people could watch short (5-15 sec.) films.

- i. What was the topic of some of these short films? (GIVE 2 EXAMPLES)

- d. People quickly realized they could make money if numerous people could watch a projected movie at the same time -> this led to the start of penny arcades where you could watch a short film, or flicker, for just a penny.

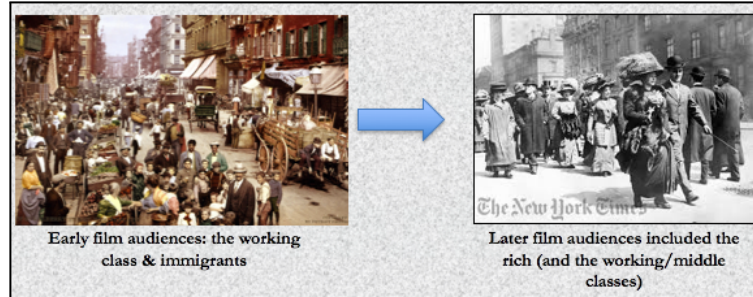
- i. DEFINE: **Flickers**

- e. DEFINE: **Nickelodeons**

- i. Mixed movies & live entertainment (singing, dancing, comedy acts)
- ii. Shows were 15-90 minutes long and changed every few days.

- iii. Nickelodeons were located near working class & immigrant neighborhoods. **Why?**
(What did immigrants and the working class like about these movies?)

II. Shifting Audiences



What did the upper class think about early movies?	How did films change to attract the middle/upper class?

III. An expanding medium: By 1928, the country had an estimated 28,000 movie theaters, which charged moviegoers 10–50 cents per ticket.

IV. ***The Great Train Robbery*** (1903)

- a. One of the first films to use narrative was *The Great Train Robbery*.
- b. The 11-minute film was a significant step forward in moviemaking.
 - i. What made this an IMPROVEMENT over the short films we just watched?

ii. What FILM TECHNIQUES did you notice?

Hollywood: A Celebration of American Silent Film, *Episode 1: Pioneers*

1. The movie says that “The Great Train Robbery” helped to take movies out of the slot machine era. EXPLAIN.
2. What made foreign films better than American films?
3. How did music enhance the silent film experience?
4. Describe theaters of the silent era.
5. Why do they say that silent movies were a thinking person’s form of entertainment?

Early Film - Animation

I. Early animation

- a. Early animation was made up of simple drawings photographed one at a time.
- b. YOU TRY! Draw a simple cartoon below. Tell a story in 3 panels.

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- c. Imagine doing that 1000+ plus times, then taking those pictures and putting them all together to make a 5-minute animated movie...
- d. What finally made this process easier? By 1913 technology made it so the animator could draw a detailed background/foreground on paper and then paint drawings of the action onto a clear sheet which was then held over the background image (didn't have to repeatedly draw the background.) This layering created the illusion of depth as well.

EXAMPLE #1: *Felix in Hollywood* (1923) - early animation (pre 1910)

I. How is the plot conveyed without spoken words?

II. How is "sound" conveyed without sound?

EXAMPLE #2: *Steamboat Willie* (1928)

I. How is *Steamboat Willie* DIFFERENT from *Felix in Hollywood*?

II. How did **Walt Disney** change animation?

The 1920s & 1930s in Film

Directions: Our focus in this unit is on the ways that film was a reflection of the times. While you're watching today's movies, be thinking about how these movies reflect some of the themes of the 1920s & 1930s.

The 1920s: A Decade of Promise

I. Economic Growth

A. What proof do we have that the economy improved and grew in the 1920s?

1. National income grew 20% between 1919-1929.
2. The value of stocks rose (\$27 billion in 1925 -> \$87 billion by Oct. 1929)
3. **What happened to wages?**

B. As people's income went up, they spent that money.

1. They'd suffered through WWI and were looking for the "good life."
2. **What did they buy? (LIST 2 examples)**

C. The economic growth of the 1920s created an **age of optimism**: Lines between rich & poor, country & city blurred

1. More people moved to the cities
2. The car made it possible to travel and the radio made it so people who didn't live in the city could still listen to entertainment like concerts & sporting events

II. **FILM: "Safety Last" (1923)**

What is the movie about? (PLOT)	How does this movie connect to economic growth?

III. Changes in work: the assembly line

A. In the '20s Americans made more \$\$\$ & had the option to buy things on credit, so there was more DEMAND for products.

B. To meet that increased demand, the **assembly line** helped speed up the process of making products.

IV. **FILM: “Modern Times” (1936)**

What is the movie about? (PLOT)	How does this movie connect to the assembly line?

- V. A decade of play: Americans made it their goal to live life to the fullest in the ‘20s
- VI. The “New” Woman - **What is a flapper?** (describe their look, attitude)

VII. **FILM: “It” (1927)**

What is the movie about? (PLOT)	How does this movie connect to the changes women experienced in the 1920s?

VIII. Prohibition and Rising Crime

- A. In 1919 the **18th Amendment** went into effect, which prohibited the manufacture, sale & transport of intoxicating liquors.
- B. In spite of the federal govt’s efforts to enforce the Prohibition laws, millions of Americans broke the law.
 - 1. **What evidence do we have that people broke the law? Give ONE example:**
- C. Prohibition contributed to a rise in **organized crime** (the mafia/mob) - **Al Capone** was the most famous mob figure. His power and wealth was tied to the sale of illegal alcohol.

IX. FILM: “Scarface: The Shame of the Nation” (1932)

What is the movie about? (PLOT)	How does this movie connect to Prohibition and crime in the 1920s?

The 1930s: The Great Depression
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I. Oct. 29, 1929 the stock market crashed. The crash eventually affected everyone. As income & profits fell, factories closed and thousands of workers lost their jobs or saw pay cuts. Families lost their homes, men blamed themselves for their failures, families were broken up.

II. Give 2 exs of how Hollywood was impacted by the Depression?

III. People reacted differently to the Great Depression. Some wanted to escape and others were honest and real about it. Pop Culture reflected/mirrored that.

DEFINE (in your own words): Escapism	DEFINE (in your own words): Realism

IV. ESCAPISM in FILM: “Bright Eyes” (1934)

What is the movie about? (PLOT)	How is this movie a good example of ESCAPISM from hardships of life in the 1930s?

X. REALISM in FILM: “The Wizard of Oz” (1939)

What is the movie about? (PLOT)	How does this movie connect to what it was really like to live in the 1930s? (REALISM)
	How is this movie also a good example of ESCAPISM from hardships of life in the 1930s?

Movies & Censorship

- I. Define: “**censorship**”

- II. The growing popularity of films led to rising concerns over the influence film was having on the nation and in particular the nation’s youth.
 - A. **What were some of the messages or influences in films that made people worry? (Give 2 ex)**

- III. Given these fears, some states began censoring films.
 - A. The film industry did not want states censoring them so they began to clean up their act. They did this by focusing on BOTH the people who made the films AND the content of the films. For ex.:

Efforts focused on actors/movie personnel	Efforts focused on the content of films

GROUP WORK

1. What types of things are banned from movies under the Code? (LIST)

2. Which of these restrictions do you think make sense and why?

3. Which of these restrictions do you think should NOT be on this list? Why?

4. What are 2 things these documents tell you about life in the U.S. at the time?