

Early Film - Invention

I. "Gold Rush" (1936)

a. Did you like the clip? Why or why not?

b. What is ONE detail you notice about the film? (sound, spoken words, quality, etc.)

II. "Mr Bean"

a. Did you like the clip? Why or why not?

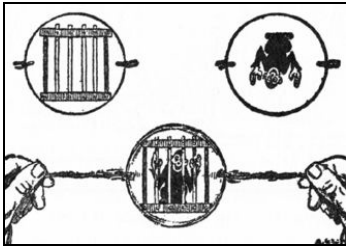
b. What is ONE detail you notice about the film? (sound, spoken words, quality, etc.)

c. What was similar and different in the 2 clips?

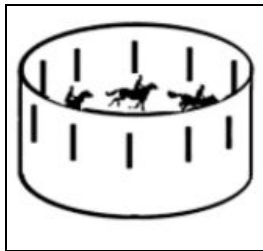
Similarities	Differences

III. Origins of film

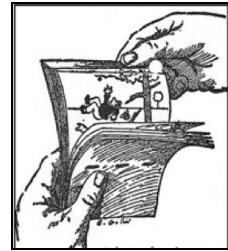
- a. The first simple short films were shown in the U.S. in the 1890s.
- b. Before that it took decades to figure out HOW to make pictures move on a screen.
 - i. Most of those efforts involved taking photographs and building on inventions in photography.
- c. Early film efforts (1800s)



Thaumatrope



Zoetrope



Kineograph (flip book)



Stereoscope

- i. Pick 2 of the early inventions in film (ABOVE).

Invention		
How it works		
How did this invention contribute to early film?		

d. The handheld Kodak camera (invented in 1900) made it possible for people to do what?

i. Being able to take their own pictures helped build millions of Americans' interest in photography.

Early Film - Short Films

I. In spite of these inventions, what problem did early film enthusiasts still have?

II. The **Kinetoscope** (short films seen through a view-finder) were first displayed at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. It was the first truly moving image or film.

- A. Penny arcades began to pop up around the country to show these new short films.
- B. What type of topics were shown in these short films? (GIVE 2 EXAMPLES)

III. THINK: Why are movies sometimes called “motion pictures”?



IV. Birth of the **Flickers**:

- A. DEFINE “Flickers”:

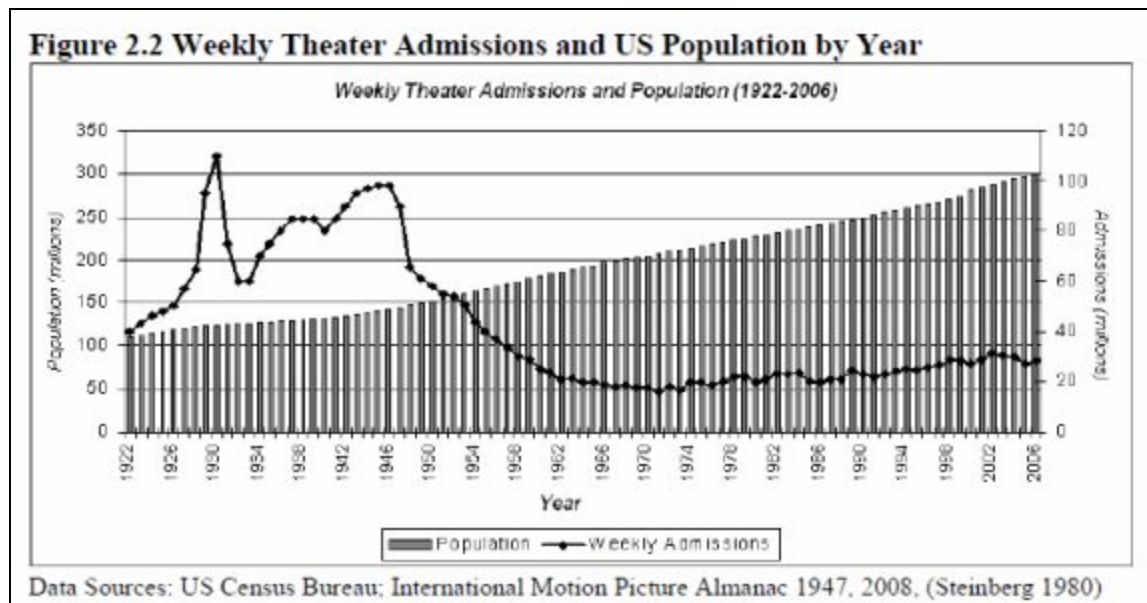


- B. Business owners made space in their stores for these movies. People sat and watched “flickers” projected onto a screen or bed sheet.

V. DEFINE: Nickelodeons

A. By 1910 more than 10 million people were going to the movies each week.

1. Is that a lot of people? Well, take a look at the chart below:



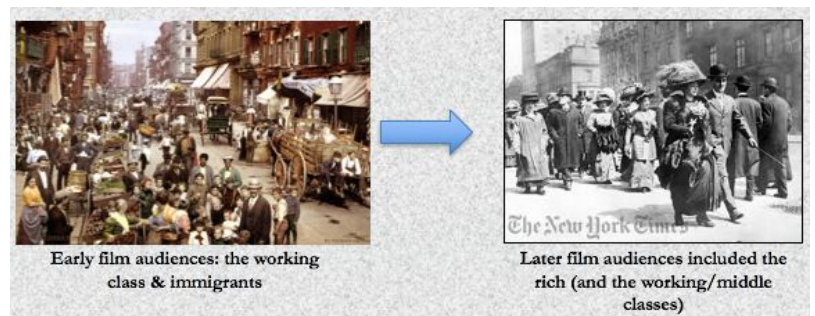
a) What do you notice about weekly theater admissions? How did it change from 1922 to 2006?

b) Look at the US population. How did it change from 1922 to 2006?

c) What can you learn from this chart?

- B. Nickelodeons weren't just movie theaters.
1. They also offered a mix of live entertainment – singing, dancing, comedy acts, and sound effects.
 2. Shows were _____ minutes long and changed every couple of days
 3. Films were short and had very simple plots.
- C. Nickelodeons were usually located close to working class & immigrant neighborhoods.
1. Why? What did immigrants and the working class like about these movies?

- VI. The Changing Audience for Films
- A. Soon, people of all social classes (rich and poor) were enjoying films.



VII. *The Great Train Robbery* (1903)

- A. One of the first films to tell a story.
- B. WHY was it so significant at the time? Watch first and then we'll discuss.
1. What made this an IMPROVEMENT over the short films we watched yesterday?
 2. What FILM TECHNIQUES did you notice?
 3. Why was this movie so significant at the time?

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. How did music add to the silent film experience?
3. Describe theaters of the silent era.
4. Why do they say that silent movies were a thinking person’s form of entertainment?

Early Film - Animation

I. Early animation

a. Early animation started before 1910 and was made up of simple drawing photographed one at a time. (TONS of work as there were 100s of drawings per minute of film.)

b. YOU TRY! Draw a simple cartoon below. Tell a story in 3 panels.

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c. How easy was that to do? What if you had to do that 1000+ plus times, then take those pictures and put them all together and all to make a 5-minute animated movie?

d. What finally made this process easier? By 1913, animation was made easier thanks to technology that 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 (making it unnecessary to repeatedly draw the background.) This layering created the illusion of depth as well.

i. TRY IT BELOW WITH ONE PANEL. Draw your background below. THEN place the clear plastic sheet over your paper and draw the action. Easier right?

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Let's see this new technology in action!

e. EXAMPLE #1: *Felix in Hollywood* (1923)

i. How is the plot conveyed without spoken words?

ii. How is "sound" conveyed without sound? (The original version did NOT have sound.)

f. EXAMPLE #2: *Steamboat Willie* (1928)

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

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