

7

Moving pictures

Reading

Before reading

1 Discuss these questions.

- 1 Do you like watching films? How often do you watch a film?
- 2 Look at the different types of films. Which are your favourites?
Comedy Romance Adventure Cartoons
- 3 How long ago do you think films were invented? What do you think the first films were like?

2 Read and listen.

The History of Film: Frequently Asked Questions

Q Who invented films?

A It's difficult to say. Lots of people played a part in the **development** of the cinema. A man called Muybridge made the first moving picture in 1878. It was a film of a horse running and it was only a few seconds long. By 1895, other people had invented various machines for showing moving pictures, but many of these could only be watched by one person at a time. The development of machines that could project films onto a **screen** was important. Thomas Edison was one of the first to show very short films to **audiences** of 20 or more people. His films showed acrobats and dancers performing, or everyday events like a man sneezing!



Q What were early films like?

A At first, films were only a few minutes long. They were black and white and **silent**. They were usually **documentaries** about different places or news events, or comedies showing people falling over and making funny faces. Later they became longer stories, but there was still no **sound**. Instead, there might be a musician playing a piano in the hall while the film was shown.

Q What were the most popular kinds of early films?

A **Musicals** were probably the most popular kind of film throughout the 1930s and 1940s. A very famous actress and singer at that time was Shirley Temple – she was only a five-year-old girl but everyone loved watching her sing and dance.



Q When did films get colour and sound?

A The very first movie to be in colour and to have sound was shown in 1927. It was called *The Jazz Singer*. From then on, more and more films were produced in colour, and almost all films had sound.

Q When were cartoons invented?

A Cartoons, or **animated** films, were first made in the 1890s. Cartoons are made from hundreds of drawings, photographed one by one. Each drawing is slightly different from the one before. When they are shown very quickly, it looks like the **characters** and objects in the drawings are moving. One of the earliest animated movies and the very first Disney **feature-length** film was *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Until that time, cartoons had been short, and only shown before the main movie. Now cartoons were watched by children and adults alike in cinemas.

Q How are films different today?

A Many films are now made using computers. Computer-generated imagery, or CGI, is pictures that are made on computers. They are used for **special effects** in films. For example, the dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, and the **scenes** in *Titanic* when the ship is sinking, were done with CGI. *Toy Story* was the first feature-length film created completely with CGI, in 1995.



Vocabulary

3 Use the words from the text to complete the sentences.

- 1 My favourite scenes in the movie are the ones where they sing.
- 2 Disney produces lots of _____ films, like *The Lion King*.
- 3 A _____ film is usually about 90 minutes long.
- 4 Film makers often use computers to create _____ like monsters or disasters.
- 5 There is a huge _____ at our cinema. It's as big as a building.
- 6 The class were _____ when the teacher walked in. No one was talking.
- 7 My favourite _____ in that film are the twins – they're so funny.
- 8 I love singing along when I watch _____.
- 9 The _____ of the cinema started in the 19th century.
- 10 These days, cinema _____ are huge – often 500 people for one film.
- 11 I prefer watching films in a cinema. The _____ is much louder and more exciting.
- 12 My favourite type of _____ are about animals like penguins or polar bears.

Reading comprehension

4 Number the sentences in the correct order.

Most films were in colour and had sound. _____

A short film of a running horse was made. 1

Toy Story was the first CGI film produced. _____

Films were shown on a screen. _____

The Jazz Singer was produced. _____

Films were shown with musicians playing beside them. _____

Shirley Temple was a popular child movie star. _____

5 Match the two parts of the sentences.

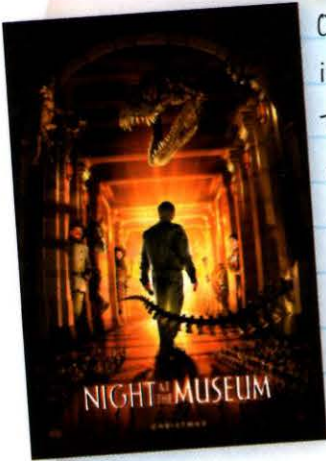
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 The first films lasted | a white. |
| 2 The first films were black and | b the first movie with sound and colour. |
| 3 Lots of the earliest films were | c computer-generated images. |
| 4 Cartoons are also | d feature-length animated film. |
| 5 Shirley Temple was a | e only a few seconds. |
| 6 <i>The Jazz Singer</i> was | f comedies. |
| 7 <i>Snow White</i> was the first | g child movie star. |
| 8 Special effects are made with | h called animated films. |

6 Circle the correct words to make true sentences.

- 1 Edison's films showed *singers* / dancers performing.
- 2 Early films were black and white and *loud* / *silent*.
- 3 Projecting movies onto screens meant they could be watched by *acrobats* / *audiences*.
- 4 *Musicals* / *documentaries* were popular in the 1930s and 1940s.
- 5 Shirley Temple *was* / *had* a 5-year-old girl who acted in musicals.
- 6 Cartoons were first made in the *18th* / *19th* century.
- 7 The first feature-length *animated* / *computer-generated* film was *Snow White*.
- 8 In *Titanic*, they used *scenes* / *special effects* to create images of a sinking ship.

7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- 1 Do you prefer watching films in the cinema or at home? Why?
- 2 Do you think people will stop going to the cinema now that movies come out on DVD very quickly? Why or why not?



One of my favourite films is 'Night at the Museum'. It's a comedy and it was made in 2006.

The plot is easy to understand. It's about a man called Larry who gets a job in a museum. He discovers that an ancient stone in the museum makes everything come alive at night! One night, three bad men break into the museum to steal the stone. Larry and his new friends have to save the museum.

I love everything about the film, but my favourite scene is when Larry meets the tiny cowboy and some tiny Roman people. I also like the scenes with the dinosaur.

I would definitely recommend this film because it has a great plot, the characters are fantastic, and the special effects are spectacular.

When you write a film review ...

• Say what **type of film** it is:

It's a comedy.

• Talk about the **plot** (the story):

It's about a man who ...

• Talk about the **best scenes**:

My favourite scene is when Larry ...

• Give a **recommendation**:

I definitely recommend this film ...

Remember: don't give away the ending of the film!

8 Match the sentences with the parts of the review they belong to.

A plot B type of film C best scenes D recommendation

1 I love the scene where the characters find the gold.

C

2 It's an animated film.

3 My favourite part is when they first arrive on the island.

4 It's about a family that live on an island.

5 You should watch this film because it's really funny.

6 They are lost in the Pacific Ocean.

9 Write a review of your favourite film. Answer these questions to help you.

What's the title?

What kind of film is it?

When was it made?

What's it about?

Who is it about?

What does this character do?

What are the best scenes?

Why would you recommend it?