The History of Movies!

Directions: Learn the history of movies the hands-on way! Read the history of movies below, then cut out the events on the next page and paste them into the timeline to create your history of movies.

Hint: Match the squares to the spaces on the timeline to put the events in order.

Before superhero blockbusters and animated comedies, filmmakers were lucky if they could get a horse to successfully gallop across the screen. Eadweard Muybridge invented one of the first movie projectors, the zoopraxiscope. The zoopraxiscope rotated images on a disc very quickly so that figures appeared to be moving. Muybridge’s most famous zoopraxiscope film featured a horse running in one direction.

Soon, movies were everywhere. Filmmakers had not figured out how to add sound yet, but their silent movies were big hits with the public. Audience members often enjoyed live musical accompaniment or commentary from film hosts.

The popularity of movies prompted some big changes from even more inventors and filmmakers. In 1899, the first silent animated cartoon was released to the public. *Humorous Phases of Funny Faces* was a short film that featured several chalkboard characters coming to life. By 1923, movie makers figured out how to add sound to films. In less than a decade, almost every film produced was a “talkie”.

Filmmakers still had one more hurdle to jump in their quest to make movies move closer to reality: most movies were still completely filmed in black-and-white. While early experiments with color and film had existed since the late 19th century, it was not until Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer’s *The Wizard of Oz* that color motion pictures became wildly popular that color film was taken seriously.

Today, DVDs, Blu-ray discs, and online streaming allow the movie experience to be enjoyed from the comforts of bedrooms, offices, and even airplanes.
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Silent movies become big hits, and audiences enjoy watching the films with live musical accompaniment and commentary from film hosts.

Humorous Phases of Funny Faces, a silent cartoon depicting chalkboard creatures coming to life, brings popularity to animated movies.

Hollywood figures out how to add sound, and soon every film produced is a “talkie.”

Though early filmmakers had experimented with adding color to traditional black-and-white films for decades, color motion pictures gained a huge following with the success of Metro Goldwyn-Mayer’s The Wizard of Oz.

DVDs, Blu-ray discs and online streaming allow movie enthusiasts to enjoy films from the comfort of their own home.
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