

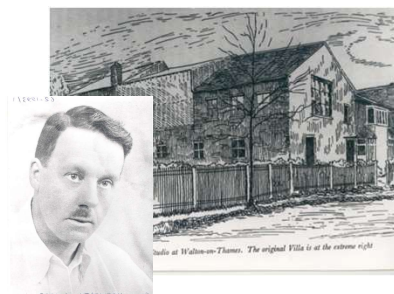
ELM BRIDGE IN FILM

Nowadays films are a huge part of our lives. We can watch them at home or in the cinema, and we can create our own videos at the touch of a button. But it has been a long journey to get here.



130 years ago no-one had ever seen a moving picture. The first people to begin making films were pioneers of the film industry and they helped to create the very first movies.

One of these people was called Cecil Hepworth and he set up a film studio right here in Walton-on-Thames! It was here that he helped change the course of film history.



Before we start exploring Elmbridge's role in the film industry, it would be useful to know how the first cameras actually worked. Take a look at the next pages to find out!



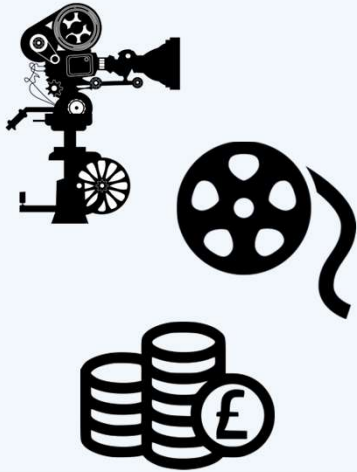
Lots of the words we use to describe films today come from the processes that were used to make them. Can you work out where these words came from? Keep an eye out for them in the rest of the worksheet.

Film Cut Movie Footage

Getting started



When Cecil first started creating films he faced lots of challenges. Can you work out what they were? Use the pictures to help you if you get stuck!



Unlike today _____ were very large and difficult to use.

It was hard for early filmmakers to earn enough _____. Cecil's first films sold for just 8p per foot of film (£2.60 in today's money).

A roll of _____ was only 50 foot long. This equalled just 1 minute worth of footage!

These challenges were made even harder by the fact that a lot of the things we take for granted today, like screenwriters, camera operators and even film stars did not exist when Cecil started filming!



Rather than be daunted by this, Cecil embraced the opportunity to invent new ways to improve his films. One of his ideas was to turn the camera to create a panning shot. This is something that is used in films all the time today!



Cecil got the chance to try out his new techniques when he was asked to film Queen Victoria's funeral in 1901. His equipment was so loud it caused the newly crowned King Edward VII, to look straight at the camera as he rode past!





Surprising stars of the silver screen



Cecil cast his baby daughter Barbara and his dog Blair as the main characters in 'Rescued by Rover'.

Audiences were especially taken by Blair's performance and he quickly became a household name! Thanks to his role in the film Blair became the first canine film star!



If you had to write a film about your pet (real or imaginary) what story would you tell? Use the page below to describe your lead character and draw a picture of what they would look like!



Name :

Description:

My character is...



Blair was so popular that Cecil cast him in future films, and he even got his own stunts! Here he is driving Barbara in the family car after yet another daring rescue!

