

History of the film industry

Fill in the blank

1. Motion pictures don't actually move. They are still pictures shown in quick succession. The human eye perceives motion because of a phenomenon called _____.

2. _____ is often credited with inventing motion pictures. He wanted pictures to accompany his phonographs.

3. Traditionally, movie companies use _____ film to shoot motion pictures.

4. The _____ brothers invented the first real projection system. Coincidentally, their names means "light" in French.

5. In the early days of film, moviegoers went to small _____ to watch films. It cost a nickel to see a film in these small theatres.

6. _____ was the most influential director of the silent era. Some people say he was a racist, but most everyone agrees that he was a real pioneer.

7. Three of the greatest film comedians made their mark during the silent era. _____ was one of them.

8. The film industry was based in _____ before moving to Hollywood.

9. The Hollywood studios became very powerful very quickly. These companies were “_____” which means they produced, distributed and exhibited their films.

10. In 1927 Al Jolson starred – and sang — in _____. The silent film era came to an abrupt end.

11. During the Golden Era of film, the _____ system evolved. The seven major studios signed talent, both in front and behind the camera, to long term contracts. Hollywood “players” had security but little freedom.

12. During the 1930s, theatres began showing double features to attract filmgoers. Usually, one of the features was a “_____” picture – a relatively inexpensive film without big stars.

13. Some critics say 1939 was the best year for films ever.
_____ is just one of the many great films released that year.

14. Movie attendance peaked in 1946 soon after _____ when soldiers began returning home.

15. In September 1947, Congressman Parnell Thomas summoned 47 filmmakers to testify before Congress about communist influence in the film industry. The _____ refused to testify.

16. During the red scare, a number of film professionals were _____ by the industry and couldn’t find work.

17. Future President _____ was president of the Screen Actors Guild in the late 1940s.

18. Sen. _____ of Wisconsin was a rabid anti-communist. His name became synonymous with the era.

19. In 1948, the Supreme Court issued the _____ decision which forced the major studios to sell some of their business interest. This decision undermined the industry's business model.

20. In the 1950s a new medium stole much of the film industry's audience. That medium still exists today. It's called _____.

True or False

21. _____ Color technology was first introduced in the mid 1950s.

22. _____ In 1951, the Supreme court ruled that filmmakers did NOT have First Amendment protection.

23. _____ The film going audience bottomed out in the early 70s when just 16.8 million American went to movies on a weekly basis.

24. _____ It costs, on average, about \$15 million to make a studio film and millions more to market.

25. _____ Most of the major Hollywood studios are now owned by international conglomerates.

26. _____ The exhibitor is responsible for marketing films and shipping them to movie houses.

27. _____ D.W. Griffith's most famous film was Gone with the Wind.

28. _____ The early, New York based movie studios formed a tight alliance known as "The Trust."

29. _____ Hollywood studios mandated "block booking" which required independent theatres owners to show bad films, along with the good.

30. _____ Walt Disney was the first person to use computers in animation.
31. _____ Hollywood met the challenge from TV by introducing new technologies such as 3-D films, smell-o-vision and cinemascope.
32. _____ The major studios today make more TV shows than films.
33. _____ India (“Bollywood”) produces almost as many feature films as the United States (Hollywood).
34. _____ Small, independent film makers usually shoot on high quality, celluloid film, much like the major studios.
35. _____ “Pickel” is one of the most successful production companies making computer animated films.
“Birth of the Nation”_
36. This movie concerns_a. the Revolutionary War_b. the Civil War_c. The War of 1812_d. The Vietnam War
37. The film is controversial because it glorifies_a. the Ku Klux Klan_b. the American Nazi Party_c. unions_d. the Black Panthers
38. The movie pioneered_a. close ups_b. color_c. jump cuts_d. all of the above.
39. A black man proposes to a white women in the movie and she_a. eagerly accepts_b. reluctantly accepts_c. politely declines_d. jumps of a cliff to avoid him.
40. Lillian Gish was known as the_a. “first lady of the silent screen”_b. “the biggest star in the heavens”_c. “America’s sweetheart”_d. the “it” giril
True or False_
41. After the advents of talking pictures, Lillian Gish never made another film.

42. The Gish sisters grew up in Ohio.

43. Birth of the Nation went way over budget and never made a profit.

43. Tickets to Birth of the Nation cost \$2 a piece — astounding for a movie made in 1915.

44. Black male actors could not appear in scenes with white women in Birth of the Nation.

45. Birth of the Nation was the first movie screened in the White House. President Wilson loved it.

46. D.W. Griffith directed hundreds of early silent films.

47. Birth of the Nation was the first, full-length feature film.

48. D.W. Griffith made several important, popular films after the “silent” era ended.

49. The Director’s Guild of America’s highest honor is currently named after Griffith.

50. Griffith was placed on a 10 cent stamp in the 1970s.

Short Answer (5 points)

Tell me one thing, good or bad, that surprised you about this film.

The End