

Class level

Third class upwards

Learning objectives

The child will be enabled to:

- recognise the difference between film-viewing at home and at the cinema
- explore a brief history of the cinema

Methodologies

Individual work and group work

Resources

Photographs of an old projector, Cinemobile, Volta cinema

Time

40-minute class session

Curriculum links

English: Oral language: *Discussion on cinema*

History: Life, society, work and culture in the past: *Project work*

SPHE: Myself and the wider world – Media education: *Comparing cinema today with cinema long ago*

Maths: Comparing film times and duration, problem-solving with cinema times – Measures: *Time, problem-solving*

Film portfolio

Cinema tickets, cinema listings, photograph of local cinema, film posters



Introduction

The teacher introduces the lesson with a discussion on “the cinema.”

Discuss:

- When was the last time you went to the cinema?
- Where is the nearest cinema to you?
- Which do you prefer, going to the cinema or watching videos or DVDs at home?
- What are the main differences?

*The Volta cinema
Mary Street, Dublin*





The Cinemobile



Development

Cinema

- The first purpose-built cinema in Ireland was the Volta, and it was in Mary Street in Dublin.
- Early films (1907–1923) were silent, but often a pianist played the piano while the film was being shown.
- The first feature-length “talkie” film (film with a soundtrack) was released in 1927. It was called *The Jazz Singer*.
- Early films were in black-and-white.
- The first full-length animated film in colour was *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, released in 1937.
- *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) was filmed in both black-and-white and colour.
- In April 2001, a mobile cinema took to the roads of Ireland. The Cinemobile is a large truck that is transformed into a 100-seat cinema in 45 minutes.



Cinema today

Where is your nearest cinema?

Has it one or more screens?

Divide the children into groups, and discuss different parts of the cinema under the following headings:

- the exterior
- the auditorium
- the projection room
- the foyer

What happens there? Who works there?

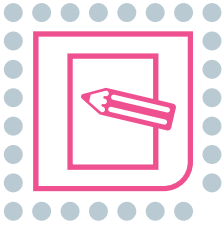
What can you see in each part of the cinema?



Activity

The children draw a map of the inside and the outside of their nearest cinema
or

Story: “The last time I visited the cinema.”



Further extension work

English and Maths: Cinema timetable

A cinema listing can be cut from a newspaper.

- How many films are shown a day?
- What are the films called?
- Divide the children into pairs and ask questions from information obtained in the cinema listing.

History: Interview project

Find out what cinemas were like in your area long ago.

- Divide the children into groups, and get them to devise a list of questions for interviewing a parent or grandparent about going to the cinema long ago.

SESE – Geography: Visit to the cinema

Organise a trail to your local cinema.

- What films are being advertised?
- Look at the posters displayed.
- Remind the children to retain their tickets for their “film portfolios.”
- Find out if your nearest cinema has a film festival.

ICT: Virtual visit

Have a “virtual visit” to a children’s film festival. (See back of pack for references.)

SPHE: Making decisions and media education

Discuss the role of the film censor.

- Below are copies of various film classification certificates. Discuss what these certifications mean.
- Why are there restrictions on some films?
- Is it appropriate for children to see a film that has a 15 or 18 years classification?

Maths: Problem-solving

Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a copy of a cinema listing from a newspaper.

- Create a series of problem-solving stories around the cinema times: for example, Pauline wants to see two films before five o’clock; what films can she see?
- Problem-solving activities could also involve using the 24-hour clock with cinema times.

