

Journal Writing

Marcus Loew is an important visionary in the history of the movies who opened movie theaters nationwide.

Directions: Read the fictional journal entries to learn about his life. Then choose a person from the list below to research. Write five journal entries of your own describing how this person contributed to the history of movies.



Journal of Marcus Loew

May 7, 1880

Today is my tenth birthday, but birthdays are pretty quiet in my New York family. Last year I had to quit school to earn some extra money for my family. I'm always tired, but I love looking into the windows of the shops that I pass every day. New York City is filled with people with big ideas and great plans. I can't wait to try out something of my own . . .



May 7, 1904

Wow, time has flown. In 1889 I finally opened my business buying and selling furs. Unfortunately it didn't work out very well, but I worked hard to pay back all of the money I borrowed—\$1,800! Lately I've been looking at something new called a penny arcade. People pay to watch 10 seconds' worth of short little movies showing jugglers or comedy routines. What a deal! My friend David Warfield and I have decided to open our own.



May 7, 1920

Happy birthday to me! Business is booming—my new corporation has 15,000 movie theater seats across the United States. People love the combination of less expensive vaudeville (variety shows with comedy and music acts) with the newest movies. But it's time to try something new. I just bought Metro Pictures, a company that produces and distributes movies, so now I can make movies as well as show them! We'll have to wait and see how it goes . . .



On September 5, 1927, Marcus Loew died in his home in Pembroke, N.Y. The entertainment industry mourned his passing. As his close friend Adolph Zukor said: "Marcus Loew was one of the really big men of this country. His influence extended far beyond the confines of the motion picture industry. His career was a shining example of American life at its best. His true greatness lay in his simplicity of heart, his generosity, his gentleness, his friendships."

Thomas Edison: Film and Sound Inventor

- Born 1847; died 1931
- Invented the motion picture camera, incandescent light bulb, and phonograph
- Received 1,093 patents throughout his lifetime

Ronald Reagan: Actor, President

- Born 1911; died 2004
- Nicknamed the Great Communicator
- Before he became the 40th President he headed to Hollywood to act in movies, including *Bedtime for Bonzo* and *Love Is on the Air*.

Steve Jobs: Entertainment Visionary

- Born 1955
- Co-founder of Apple Computer at the age of 21
- Co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios, the makers of *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life*, and *Finding Nemo*

