

Writing from Oral History

Generations have experienced the wonder and excitement of going to the movies.

Directions: Think about a recent moviegoing experience and answer the questions below. Then use these questions to interview someone from another generation. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph summarizing the responses.



1. Why did you decide to go to the movies?
2. What type of movie did you see?
3. Where did you see the movie?
4. With whom did you go to the movies?
5. What did the theater look like?
6. What snacks did you eat?
7. Where do you like to sit in the theater? Why?
8. Are you quiet or talkative in the theater? Why?
9. Do you watch the credits at the end of the movie? Why or why not?
10. After you watched the movie, did you want to see it again? Why or why not?

Did you know?

Share these fun facts during the interview and see if you can think of any interesting trivia to add to the list!

- ? The price of admission for the first drive-in movie was 25 cents for the car and 25 cents per person.
- ? Thomas Alva Edison held 1,093 patents for different inventions, including the motion picture camera.
- ? The first machine that showed animated pictures or movies was called the "wheel of life" or "zoopraxiscope" and was patented in the United States in 1867.
- ? During the Great Depression, popcorn was one of few luxuries families could afford. Sugar was rationed and sent overseas to soldiers during World War II, so candy was scarce. Because of this, Americans ate three times more popcorn than usual.
- ? *Jurassic Park* was released on May 30, 1993, as the first film with DTS (Digital Theater Systems) sound, which uses multichannel audio to create richer sounds.
- ? Elvis Presley worked as an usher at a Loews State Theatre in Memphis, Tenn., and returned there to play while on tour.
- ? In New York's Times Square, the Loews movie theater sign is made up of a quarter million red, blue, and green lights spelling the word "Loews." The sign is five stories high.
- ? Movie star Ben Affleck worked as an usher for Loews before becoming an actor.
- ? In 1932, the average American went to the movies about 26 times per year.



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