TEACHER'S GUIDE
Analyzing Motion Pictures

OBSERVE
REFLECT
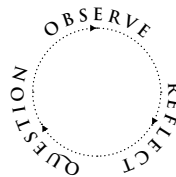QUESTION

Guide students with the sample questions as they respond to the primary source. **Encourage them to go back and forth between the columns; there is no correct order.**

OBSERVE

Have students identify and note details.

Sample Questions:

Describe what you see and hear. · What do you notice first? · Do you only see live action, or are there any special effects or animation? · Describe any words you see on the screen. · What do you notice about the length of the motion picture? · Does anything about it seem strange or unusual? · What other details do you notice?

REFLECT

Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.

What was the purpose of this motion picture? · Who do you think created it? · Who are the people who appear in it? · What tools and materials were used to create it? · Do you think it was filmed on location, or was there a stage set? · Who do you think was the intended audience? · What feelings or ideas do you think its creators wanted to communicate? · If someone created this motion picture today, what would be different?

QUESTION

Have students ask questions to lead to more observations and reflections.

What do you wonder about...

who? · what? · when? · where? · why? · how?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

Sample Question: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

A few follow-up activity ideas:

Beginning
Have students write a brief description of the motion picture in their own words.

Intermediate
Speculate about the purpose of the motion picture and what its creators expected it to accomplish. Do you think the motion picture achieved their goals? Explain why you think so.

Advanced
Think about what you already know about this period in history. How does this motion picture support or contradict your current understanding of this period?

For more tips on using primary sources, go to

http://www.loc.gov/teachers