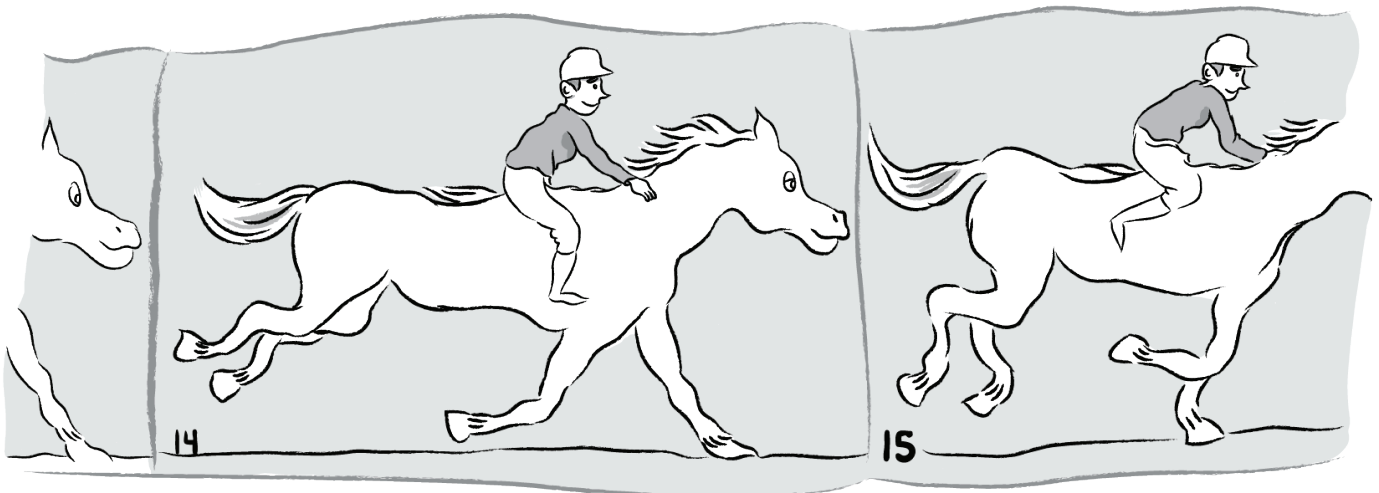


Grab some popcorn and settle in for a night at the movies! Instead of the two-hour features packed with CGI and big explosions that we have today, the first movies ever created were very short and showed mainly everyday activities. This is simply because there was only enough film to capture a few minutes. Back then, people found even the simplest moving picture entertaining.

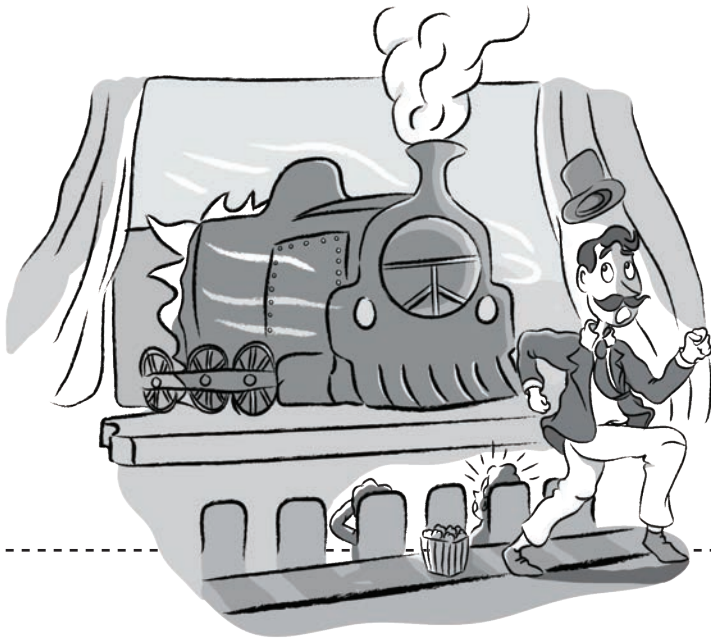
Here are a few suggestions to give you a peek at what early film was like. Get someone to help you locate these movies online.



*Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze* is the oldest copyrighted motion picture on record. It was made by W.K.L. Dickson in 1894 with—you guessed it—an Edison kinetoscope. At just four seconds long, it is a simple yet significant part of movie history.



*Sallie Gardner at a Gallop* may not seem that exciting today, but it made a big splash when it debuted for two reasons. One, it is one of the first films ever made. Two, it answered a very old question that had always puzzled people: Do all four of a horse's hooves leave the ground when it gallops? *Sallie Gardner at a Gallop* answered that question with a resounding "yes!"



No movie has ever caused as great a panic as the film *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station*. Made in 1895 by the Lumière brothers, this movie shows a train chugging towards the camera. Most people back then had never experienced a film, so some of the audience thought the train was going to burst out and run them over! Reportedly, people screamed and fled the theater.

Pretend you are a pioneer in early filmmaking. What would be your subject for a silent film? Remember, you only have about a minute of film time and it must be in black and white!

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People were supposedly so terrified of *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station* that they ran out of the theater. Describe a movie that scared you and made you want to run away.

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Filmmakers a hundred years ago could not have dreamed of movies today, from 3-D to Blu-ray to special effects made on computers. Think about cinema a hundred years from now. What do you think it might be like?

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