

Movie Magic

Kids bring stories to life.

Have you ever tried broccoli ice cream? That's what Oliver serves his customers in the movie *Oliver's Organic Ice Cream*.

The one-minute **film** was created by kids. A film is a movie. The young students learned their moviemaking skills at the Jacob Burns Film Center. The center is in Pleasantville, New York. Kids who go there learn how to make movies and music videos.

The character Oliver and his gross treats are **animated**. In an animated movie, objects, such as ice cream and paper dolls, appear to be alive or moving.

Animated movies are made up of hundreds of pictures. It takes 15 pictures to make just one second of film. To make a movie that lasts one minute, students need to take about 900 **frames**. A frame is a picture.

Animation expert Joe Summerhays teaches kids the steps to shoot a movie. He says what they learn behind the scenes, however, also counts. Students create their films in small groups. They have to agree on every decision.

"The benefit of the class is less animation and more problem solving," Summerhays told *WR News*. "It's all about teamwork."

More than 4,000 kids have made movies at the Jacob Burns Film Center. Mikey Price, 11, of Briarcliff Manor, New York, is one of them. "I'm actually making a real movie," he told *WR News*. "It's an adventure."

Lights, Camera, Action!

How do kids at the Jacob Burns Film Center make movies? First, they come up with an idea. Then, they follow these four steps.

(1) What's Your Story?



John Klein/Weekly Reader

Once they have an idea, students create a **storyboard**. That is a group of drawings that show the scenes of a movie. The storyboard helps students decide what will happen.

(2) Ready, Set, Go!



John Klein/Weekly Reader

Using construction paper, clay, and other materials, students create characters for their movie. They also build the movie **sets**, or backgrounds.

(3) Animation Creation



Courtesy of R. Sampogna/Jacob Burns Film Center

Students are now ready to shoot a scene. First, they place a scene beneath a raised camera. It is connected to a computer. The students take a picture by pressing the computer's space bar.

(4) It's a Wrap!



John Klein/Weekly Reader

After students have shot all their scenes, the teachers help them put their movie together.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do kids do at the Jacob Burns Film Center?

- A. They make broccoli ice cream.
- B. They learn how to make movies and music videos.
- C. They write letters to movie stars.
- D. They take pictures of their friends with a camera.

2. The text explains four steps kids follow to make movies at the Jacob Burns Film Center. What happens after students create characters out of construction paper, clay, and other materials for their movie?

- A. Students create a storyboard.
- B. Students come up with an idea for their movie.
- C. Students shoot a scene with a camera.
- D. Students put the movie together on their own.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"Animated movies are made up of hundreds of pictures. It takes 15 pictures to make just one second of film. To make a movie that lasts one minute, students need to take about 900 frames."

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can be made?

- A. All animated movies are made at the Jacob Burns Film Center.
- B. An animated movie is a movie about photographs.
- C. Making an animated movie takes a lot of time and hard work.
- D. All animated movies are one minute long.

4. Read these sentences from the text.

"At the Jacob Burns Film Center, students create their films in small groups. They have to agree on every decision."

Based on the evidence in these sentences, what skills do students need to make a movie together?

- A. patience and cooperation
- B. speed and quickness
- C. ice cream and paper dolls
- D. drawing and painting

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. the making of the movie *Oliver's Organic Ice Cream*
- B. how kids come up with ideas for a movie
- C. the history of Pleasantville, New York
- D. how kids learn to make movies at the Jacob Burns Film Center

6. At the Jacob Burns Film Center, students follow four steps to make a movie. Why might the author of the passage have listed these four steps in order?

- A. to show the reader that students can do all the work without a teacher
- B. to make it easier for the reader to follow the steps
- C. to show the reader that the first thing to do is to build the movie set, or background
- D. to show the reader how one step is more important than another step

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

_____ students have shot all their scenes, the teachers help them put their movie together.

- A. After
- B. Unless
- C. Although
- D. Before

- 8.** When making a movie at the Jacob Burns Film Center, what is the first thing kids do before following the four steps?
- 9.** Explain why teamwork is an important part of the moviemaking process at the Jacob Burns Film Center.
- 10.** A lot has to happen for an idea to become a movie. Explain how a student's idea for a movie might change by the time the movie is finished.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **skill**?

- A. a seaside
- B. ability
- C. a rating

2. What is another meaning of the word **skill**?

- A. an ability that has been acquired by training
- B. a public promotion of some product or service
- C. the ripened reproductive body of a seed plant

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. At first, they worked mostly in unskilled or _____ occupations.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

4. Not even the most _____ hunter could bring home meat for the cooking pots.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

5. The Native Americans of the Andes mountains in Peru were _____ farmers.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

6. They also learned the _____ they would need to run Athens.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

7. And only 3 percent of the sample were _____ laborers, compared with 16 percent of all Union soldiers.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

8. "Oh yes," he said as he _____ balanced the soccer ball on the top of his soccer cleat.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

9. Singing and playing music was also an important _____.

- A. skillfully
- B. skilled
- C. skillful
- D. skill
- E. semiskilled
- F. unskilled
- G. skills

10. Please write your own sentence using the word **skill**.

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **skill** so that you can use it when you write or speak?