

Read this selection to learn how Hollywood and the movies have changed and answer the questions that follow.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Hollywood! It's a magic name. When you think of Hollywood today, you probably think of bright lights and movie stars.

But Hollywood wasn't always the movie capital of the world. In the late 1880s, it was a small country community near Los Angeles. People bought land and built farms there. Life was quiet and peaceful.

But not for long. In 1910, Hollywood became a part of Los Angeles. Around that same time, a new industry came to Hollywood: motion pictures. Hollywood would never be the same.

Roll 'Em!

Hollywood wasn't the first place movies were made. By 1910, people had been making movies in New York, New Jersey, and Chicago for almost 20 years. But those places had one problem: for most of the year, it was too cold and rainy to make movies.

In the Los Angeles area, the weather was sunny and warm almost all the time. And the wide-open spaces in Hollywood made it easy for movie makers to film movies, like Westerns, that took place outdoors.

Soon, 20 film companies were making movies in Hollywood! People from around the country came to Los Angeles. Some became movie stars. Others worked behind the scenes. Before long, Hollywood became *the* place to make movies in the U.S.

What? No Sound?

The movies made in Hollywood long ago weren't like the movies you watch today. Before 1927, movies were made without sound. Do you think silent movies couldn't have been any good? Well, think again!

If you went to the movies in 1915, you would have paid about 25 cents to get in. The lights in the theater would dim. From a corner of the room, a piano player would begin to play. The music would set the mood for the movie.

Words, or subtitles, would flash on the screen from time to time. They would explain what was going on. Most of the time, you wouldn't need the subtitles. You could tell what the actors were feeling by the look on their faces, or the movement of their hands. And many movies were full of action. They were just plain exciting to watch!

Going to the movies long ago was a lot different than it is today. But it was just as much fun. Maybe that's why people throughout the years have said, "Hooray for Hollywood!"

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| <p>1. In the late 1800s, what kind of people mostly lived in Hollywood?</p> <p>A farmers</p> <p>B movie makers</p> <p>C silent actors</p> <p>D piano players</p> | <p>4. According to the selection, how did most people watching silent movies know what was happening?</p> <p>A They read the scenes.</p> <p>B They listened to the words.</p> <p>C They watched the actors' faces and hands.</p> <p>D They watched how lights flashed on the screen.</p> |
| <p>2. What made it difficult to make movies in New York?</p> <p>A Not many actors lived there.</p> <p>B It cost too much.</p> <p>C There was not enough good weather.</p> <p>D Only silent movies could be made there.</p> | <p>5. How is Hollywood different today from what it was in the late 1800s?</p> <p>A Today, Hollywood is a small, quiet community with few people.</p> <p>B Today, Hollywood has a lot of people because of the movie business.</p> <p>C Today, few people come to Hollywood because there are few things to do.</p> <p>D Today, there are many farms in the Hollywood area.</p> |
| <p>3. What created the mood of a silent movie?</p> <p>A The audience sang along with the movie.</p> <p>B An actor came on stage and explained the movie.</p> <p>C The audience members read the story as they watched the movie.</p> <p>D A piano player played music to go with the movie.</p> | |

6. What is the main idea of the section, “What? No Sound?”
- A Going to the movies long ago was a lot different than it is today.
 - B By 1910, people had been making movies in many different places.
 - C Silent movies began with music that set the mood for the movie.
 - D In the Los Angeles area, the weather was usually sunny and warm.

End of Set

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*Answers to
Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Sample Items*

Passage Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Category	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
Lights, Camera, Action!	1	A	Cognition	Knowledge	2.02
Lights, Camera, Action!	2	C	Cognition	Knowledge	2.02
Lights, Camera, Action!	3	D	Cognition	Knowledge	2.02
Lights, Camera, Action!	4	C	Cognition	Applying	2.02
Lights, Camera, Action!	5	B	Critical Stance	Analyzing	3.01
Lights, Camera, Action!	6	A	Cognition	Analyzing	2.04