

16MM FILMS AND PUPIL-CENTERED ACTIVITIES AS A METHOD
OF ENHANCING THE STUDY OF SOCIAL STUDIES
IN THE FOURTH GRADE

by 1264

KAROL KAY MOBLEY

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Major Professor

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THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Today the 16mm projector and film have been accepted as standard equipment for classroom use due to their inexpensiveness, availability, ease of projection, and educational values. The techniques of utilizing such instructional media, no doubt, are numerous. Learning and performance on the part of the student can be significantly enriched through the employment of such audio-visual media.

The Problem

Statement of the problem. The efficient elementary school teacher is constantly looking for worthwhile methods and/or techniques to improve her instruction.

Objectives. It was the purpose of this study (1) to investigate the value of presenting 16mm films and pupil-centered activities to fourth grade pupils, (2) to provide a list of activities which may be used to enhance the social studies units, and (3) to provide a list of free films available to teachers.

Importance of the study. The motion picture today is firmly established in most school systems as an educative media of extreme value. However, too often its ease of presentation interferes with its effectiveness. It is too easy to simply thread the machine, turn on the projector, and let the film present itself. Even a follow-up discussion of the film is of little value if it is not organized and

graded effectively. In this study an attempt was made to study techniques of film presentation in an effort to discover more effective methods of instructing fourth grades in the social studies area and to compile a list of activities which would be beneficial towards the development of the child during the course of study of specific units.

Limitations. The researcher used library research as the method of gathering the data for the study. The data is presented through a review of the literature available, a listing of activities to be carried out at the desired time during the study of specific units, and the listing of free films available to teachers and the addresses of their producers.

Definitions of Terms Used

Educational film. An educational film was interpreted as a motion picture employed as an instructional device or material, the source of which was the local Instructional Materials Center or a company listed in the Educator's Guide to Free Films, 1968 edition.

Stop-action. When using a 16mm film in the teaching of social studies it is often effective to be able to stop the film at a particular point with the picture on the screen. A particular concept may need discussion at this point of the showing before continuation of the film.

Without sound. The running of a film without sound is an effort to persuade the students to use their visual ability in summarizing