



A BFI Education Essentials Resource

Parental guide with key questions, discussion points, and activities for films on BFI Player (KS2)

A Trip to the Moon (1902)

This resource is designed for pupils at KS2 to accompany the film material on BFI Player. The questions and activities will work on their own or as a sequence. The activities are designed to work across KS2 but some activities may be too challenging for lower KS2; pupils should access the work at their own level and pace.

This film material has been carefully selected for a KS2 audience. Some of the films on BFI Player are unsuitable for this age group so supervision is advised.

A Trip to the Moon (1902) 11 mins

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-a-trip-to-the-moon-1902-online>

Before you watch the film:

- What do you think this film will be about?
- This is a science fiction film. Have you seen any other science fiction films?

Pause the film at 00:50:

- Why do you think there is no sound in this film?
- Who are the people in the film? Where do you think they are?

Activity: Imagine you are a scientist recruiting a team of astronauts to go to the moon. What sort of people will you need for your adventure?

- Draw an astronaut and label them with the key equipment that they will need. (Space helmet, tool belt, telescope...)
- Now label them with the personal characteristics they will need to have, for example: bravery, creative thinker, good at solving problems...

Pause the film at 02:35:

- If this film had sound, what sound effects would we be able to hear?

Activity: Design a space rocket for a trip to the moon. What key things should be on it? How will you land safely on the moon and get back to Earth?

- Draw the outline of your rocket. What shape will you choose?
- Now draw and label some of the key features that will enable you to travel safely to the moon and return to Earth.

Pause the film at 04:35:

- How can you tell that this film was made in 1902? Think about the costumes, the style of the film (it is black and white, low quality, no sound) and the storyline.
- What do you think will happen next?

Pause the film at 05:25:

- Why do you think this film would have been impressive to an audience in 1902? Think about the fact that this is one of the first science fiction films and audiences would know very little about the moon.
- What do you predict the explorers will find on the moon?

Activity: Imagine you are one of the explorers. Write a diary entry for the day that you landed on the moon. What could you see around you? What was the journey like to get there? How did it feel looking back down at the Earth?

- Once you have written your diary entry, you can record it as a voice note to yourself or as a video blog.

Pause the film at 06:30:

- What happens whilst the explorers are sleeping?
- Can you remember the last dream that you had? How much of it can you remember?

Pause the film at 7:35:

- How do you think the filmmakers transformed the umbrella into a mushroom?

Remember, there were no computers and so they had to be very clever with special effects. Hint: This film uses many 'jump cuts' - this is where you pause the film and freeze everything, apart from the thing you are transforming. Then you replace the object with a new object and start the film again.

Activity: Can you have a go at creating a 'jump cut' at home? You will need to keep the camera very still - film yourself walking into the shot, then pause, replace yourself with someone else walking out of the shot and start filming again. It should look like you have transformed into someone else!

- Watch out for the other 'jump cuts' in the next part of the film (at 07:52, a jump cut is used to make the alien disappear!) At the end of the film:
- Did you enjoy this film? What did you find interesting about it?
- How do you think an audience in 1902 would have reacted to this film?

Activity: After the explorers are captured, they manage to escape and get back to Earth. Create a storyboard (a series of pictures with captions) to show an alternative ending to the story. What could have happened instead?

Activity: Create a music soundtrack for part of/all of the story. How will you create the sound effects? What music will you choose to create the right atmosphere? Will the music change in each scene?

You may also enjoy:

The ? Motorist: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-the-motorist-1906-online>

Mr Moon: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-mr-moon-1901-1901-online>