

Teacher Resource

Special Effects

Focus Questions

1. Discuss the BTN *Special Effects* story with another student.
2. Rising Sun Pictures has worked on the visual effects for several Hollywood films. Name one.
3. What is the difference between a practical and a computer-generated visual effect? Give examples.
4. What historical event was recreated in the film *Ford v Ferrari*?
5. What research did the Rising Sun Pictures team do to make the scene accurate?
6. What is a green screen?
7. How were the cockpit interior shots filmed?
8. What visual effects were added to the cockpit interior shots?
9. How long does it take for 80 people to create 8 minutes of visual effects?
10. What was surprising about this story?

Activity

Vocabulary

Students will develop a glossary of words and terms that relate to film making and visual effects. Below are some words to get them started. Students will add words and meanings to their glossary as they come across unfamiliar words throughout their research.

Green screen	Computer-generated imagery	Scene
Visual effects	Shot	Animation

Further investigation

Students will consider using pictures and diagrams to illustrate meanings of the words in the glossary.

Activity

KWLH

Watch the BTN *Special Effects* story and discuss as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in their knowledge. The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

Key Learning

Students will explore visual effects techniques used in film.

Curriculum

Media Arts – Years 3 & 4

Use media technologies to create time and space through the manipulation of images, sounds and text to tell stories.

Plan, create and present media artworks for specific purposes with awareness of responsible media practice.

Media Arts – Years 5 & 6

Develop skills with media technologies to shape space, time, movement and lighting within images, sounds and text.

Plan, produce and present media artworks for specific audiences and purposes using responsible media practice.

<i>What do I know?</i>	<i>What do I want to know?</i>	<i>What have I learnt?</i>	<i>How will I find out?</i>

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one or more of the questions below.

- What are visual effects? Explore 3 different types of visual effects techniques used in film. Find examples of these techniques in films.
- What was the one of first films to use visual effects? Explore the history of visual effects in film from early animation to computer generated images used today.
- How is technology changing visual effects techniques?
- Why do filmmakers use storyboards? Choose a scene from your favourite film and make a storyboard of that scene.
- Who is involved in the making of a film? Watch the closing credits of a film to see who is involved in the film making process. Make a list of the different roles and their responsibilities. Choose one role to research in more detail.
- Explore the history of the Australian film industry and create a timeline to highlight your findings. Compare and contrast the film industry in Australian to that of other countries, for example, the Bollywood film industry in India.

Activity

Visual effects

In small groups students will choose one visual effects technique from the list below to research in more detail and then demonstrate in a short 2-minute video.

Green screen / Chroma key

Green screen is also known as 'chroma key'. It is a technique used in film that can replace a real background (usually a green background) with a digital background. Watch these BTN stories to watch kids using green screen.

[Screen It Competition](#)
[Gaming FX](#)

Jump cut

A jump cut is a technique used in film to show a time jump or a change of location during a film. A jump cut can also create the illusion that an actor or an object has disappeared. Visit [ACMI's website](#) to learn more about jump cuts.

Stop motion animation

Stop-motion is a technique used in animation to make still objects appear to come to life on screen. This is done by taking lots of still photos of the object in slightly different poses. When all the photos are played in order it shows movement.

You can make your own short 3D clay animation film using stop-motion animation. Watch this [BTN story](#) to see kids making their own stop-motion animation.

Activity

History of the Oscars

Watch this [BTN story](#) to learn about the history of the Oscars. BTN finds out why they're such a big deal, why they're called the Oscars, and why they're sometimes controversial. Students will then respond to the following focus questions:

1. Name some of the categories awarded at the Oscars.
2. What is the name of the production company that Louis B. Mayer co-founded?
3. What year was the first Academy Awards held?
4. Why is the gold award called an 'Oscar'?
5. In what year were the Academy Awards first televised?
6. Give an example of when things have gone wrong at the Academy Awards.
7. In what year was an African American man first named best actor?
8. Who is the only woman to have won best director?



Activity

Animation game

In this [ABC Education game](#) students will build animated characters for a new cartoon show. Students will choose each character's walking movements to suit their personality, mood, actions and relationship to other characters.



[ABC Education: Character Maker](#)

Useful Websites

History of the Oscars BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/history-of-the-oscars/10834166>

Oscar Props - BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/oscar-props/10531032>

BTN – Screen It Competition

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/screen-it-competition/10523034>

BTN – Movie Magic

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/movie-magic/10534812>