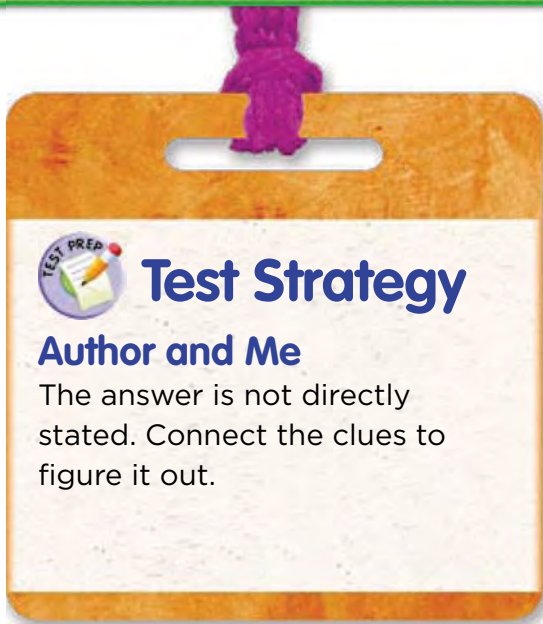


# Answer Questions



## Step 1: Find a Director

There is an old saying that everybody has a story to tell.

The first movie cameras were invented way back before the turn of the twentieth century. They were bulky wood and metal contraptions; indeed, some were as big as pieces of furniture. A filmmaker had to crank the camera to turn the film, and the lighting had to be perfect.

Now because of amazing new technology, anyone can make movies! Digital video cameras, special computer software, and even camera phones are available to beginning filmmakers.

Alfred Hitchcock, legendary director of suspense movies, once said, “Drama is life with the dull bits cut out.” Hitchcock certainly knew what he was talking about. He directed some of the cleverest and most exciting movies ever made, such as *The Lady Vanishes* and *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. Not all movies need to be complicated mysteries or action-packed adventures. There are many different kinds of movies. These categories are called genres. Some examples of movie genres are comedy, history, documentary, and, of course, drama. Often the most creative movies are those that break the mold and try something new.

## Step 2: Choose a Script

Movie critics say that good movies start with good scripts. Scripts, or screenplays, are the written version of the story. Dialogue, or what the characters in the movie say to each other, is the heart and soul of a movie script. Sounds, special effects, and music are also important.

Do you ever find yourself quoting classic movie lines to a friend? That all goes back to the work of a talented scriptwriter. Scripts are written in a unique way that makes them easy for actors to read and easy for the director to know what each scene should look like.

## Step 3: Cast the Movie

The next step is to cast the movie. In Hollywood, there are people who spend all their time deciding which actors will be best for each part. The actors are important because they stay in the audience's memory long after the movie is over. Hold auditions to find the perfect person to play each character in the movie.

## Step 4: Build the Set

Getting ready to shoot a movie is a lot of work. Many things need to be done before the cast and crew even arrive for the first day of filming. What shows up on screen depends on how well you plan the shoot. A shoot, when a director and actors get together to film the scenes of a movie, can be done in a studio or on location. A studio is a place that can be changed to fit whatever scene you are shooting. On location is when you film the scene in the place where it happens, or a place that looks like it.

For example, if the story takes place on the moon, you can shoot in a location that looks like the moon. You could even create your own moon set in the studio. The settings for the story are limited only by your imagination—and your ingenuity.

There are many kinds of movie directors. Some enjoy working closely with actors, and others enjoy letting the actors do their own thing. Regardless of directing style, it is the director's job to help the actors deliver the finest performances they can.

# Answer Questions

## Step 5: Edit the Movie

*In the can* means a movie is done shooting. Still, there is more work to be done. Experts work many hours to put the different pieces of a movie together. Once the shoot is over, editors and mixers use computers to add sounds, music, and special effects. Then the film companies make posters, create commercials, and have press conferences to promote the movie.

Luckily, not every great movie needs special effects and press conferences. Many movies can be made with a crew of only a few people and a cast of just one person. That is the magic of the movies, especially today! Whichever genre you choose, filmmaking can be an art form.

Now set up the camera, point the lens, and get the actors in their places. Ready! Set! Action!



**Tip**

Connect the clues or ideas from the selection to choose the best answer.

**Directions: Answer the questions.****1. Based on the selection, which conclusion can you draw about making a movie?**

- A** Choosing the actors is the most important part of making a movie.
- B** Every movie made today uses special effects.
- C** Good directors never tell the actors what to do.
- D** Preparing to shoot a movie and editing a movie require a lot of skill and planning.

**2. What are some things that might stop a movie from being made on time?**

- A** The script contains a lot of dialogue and the director wants to hear the actors read it aloud.
- B** The cast and crew want to work seven days a week.
- C** The film critics give the movie a bad review.
- D** The cast and crew must film outdoors, and the weather prevents them from working.

**3. Which does not affect the cost of producing a movie?**

- A** Digital cameras are very expensive.
- B** Shooting on location is very costly.
- C** The price of movie tickets has gone up.
- D** A lot of food is required to feed the cast and crew.

**4. How has movie making become easier over time?****5. Do you think anyone can make a movie? Why or why not? Explain your response in two paragraphs, using examples from the selection in your answer.****Writing Prompt**

What would it be like to be a movie director? Write a journal entry in which you describe one day on the set. Your entry should be at least three paragraphs.

