

Teacher Notes: Viewing Historical Films/Videos

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General recommendations:

- View in segments of 20 - 30 minutes.
- Provide the video title and theme before viewing. Clarify key terms or challenging vocabulary. Give the students a purpose, or something to watch for as they view the film/video.
- Students need not take notes during the film/video; this is difficult to do and can interfere with active listening.
- If the film/video depicts a series of events, encourage students to focus on sequence and on causality (what led to what) rather than on dates and statistics.
- Encourage students to be critical about how realistically the film/video represents the past.
- Immediately after the viewing, give the students the opportunity to discuss or record what they have learned, and to evaluate the film/video.

Please see the following page for a historical film/video viewing template for student use.



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Viewing Historical Film/Video	
Film/Video title and topic: Date of viewing:	
What did you see? <i>Describe the images that impressed you.</i>	What did you hear? <i>Relate 4 - 5 ideas or words that you recall from the narration.</i>
How did you feel about what you saw and heard?	Facts that were presented in the film:
What questions do you have?	Note one thing you learned about the past by viewing this video.
Did this film use or portray primary sources? Describe them.	
Write a comment on each element to evaluate this film. Historical accuracy: Photography: Clear narration: Interest and creativity:	