National Archives at the Movies

The Motion Picture Preservation Lab at the National Archives performs conservation and preservation work on motion picture records. Among the millions of feet of film handled by staff each year, they’ve identified some of their favorites for your viewing pleasure!

Get your popcorn and join us for a variety of historic films from the Motion Picture branch of the National Archives.

In the mood for Cold War nostalgia?

Duck and Cover

Bert the Turtle demonstrates to children the best way to protect themselves from atomic attacks.

Looking for a catchy new song?
Swingin' Six

In this short variety show, 1960s pop group "The Swingin' Six" explains the different components of a zip code and how zip codes make the US Postal Service more efficient.

Do you love watching vintage television commercials?

Smokey Bear

This Forest Service commercial features Rod Serling and a Twilight Zone style twist ending.

Looking for a feel good film with otters?

The Warm Coat

Documentary account of an airlift of sea otters from the Bering Sea to Alaskan coves. It not only has cute
animals, it is also informative.

Feel like taking a virtual trip to Alaska?

One Man's Alaska
This film is a documentary profile of conservationist and wildlife photographer, Dick Proenneke, at his home in the Lake Clark area of Alaska. It features close-up scenes of native wildlife, dramatic panoramas of the change of seasons and clips of Proenneke carving his log cabin out of the wilderness.

Are you interested in a look behind the scenes?

The Problem Solvers
The Army Corps of Engineers has been hard at work building temporary hospitals to help states and
cities respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Who are the Army Corps of Engineers? This film tells us about their duties in a very 1980s manner.

*National Archives Identifier 1266068*

If you are a soap box derby enthusiast...

**The Draggin Wagon**

This film covers the story of how a soap box derby car is built and raced, told from the perspective of Clarence Carter, Jr., a derby participant in Washington, D.C.

*National Archives Identifier 52818*

If you love a reenactment of a story from a small town in New England...

**The Cummington Story**

This film looks at the integration of a group of World War II refugees into a small town in
History Hub

Have a question? Find your answer on History Hub!

History Hub is our support community for researchers, genealogists, history enthusiasts, and citizen archivists. Ask questions, share information, work together, and find help based on experience and interests. Researchers can ask—or answer—questions on History Hub, or search to see if a question has been asked before.

Citizen Archivists, there's a group just for you! You can share tips and strategies, find new challenges, and get support for your work. Get started with our poll: What kinds of records do you like to transcribe?
Thank you Citizen Archivists!

Whew! You’ve been working hard. We’ve had an unprecedented number of Citizen Archivists who have been tagging, transcribing and commenting on records in the National Archives Catalog. In the past 8 weeks 1,975 Citizen Archivists have contributed:

- 260,967 tags
- 111,015 pages of transcriptions
- 35,029 comments

Read about the contributions of Citizen Archivists from the National Archives News: Citizen Archivists Triple Contributions to National Archives Catalog During Pandemic

Would you like to join us as a Citizen Archivist? Learn how to register and get started.

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V-E Day project from Zooniverse

The American Soldier in World War II project is pleased to announce the completion of its transcription drive. When Zooniverse originally launched this Virginia Tech based project on May 8, 2018, they hoped to complete all of the transcriptions and annotations by the 75th anniversary of VE Day: May 8, 2020.

Thanks to the absolutely amazing dedication of our project contributors, that goal has been achieved! That means that over 65,000 pages of reflections on war and military service written by World War II soldiers in their own hands have been transcribed and annotated in triplicate—in two years. That’s over 190,000 pages in total!
Look for the next phase of the project in 2021, as they launch an open-access website with all these intimate, now-readable wartime documents. Learn more at: https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/theamericansoldier/home

COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.