

Teacher's Notes & Answer Key

Level	Intermediate +
Lesson Aims	Learners will develop reading skills, learn/review vocabulary related to eating snacks, as well as practice their speaking skills
Approximate Timing	45-50 mins
Notes to the teacher	This lesson provides a short history of popcorn at the movies. It can be expanded to bring in other topics connected to the theme, such as snack foods, health, and potentially entertainment. Popcorn is a universal snack food that students should have experience with, and most likely have indulged in. The speaking task allows for the use of imagination and can be expanded to actual demonstrations of the games they create to finish the lesson in a fun and creative way.
Text Link	http://moviesonmymind.blogspot.com/2005/09/short-history-of-popcorn-at-movies.html
Image Links	http://pixabay.com/en/photos/?q=popcorn&image_type=&cat=&order=

Teacher's Notes

- 1) Speaking: Present the pictures and discussion questions to the students to start the theme of the lesson. You can supplement the pictures provided by expanding the idea of snacks, i.e fruit, vegetables, etc.

Students discuss the questions in ex. 1 in pairs, then the teacher can have the students share answers to the class.

- 2) Reading: Tell students they are going to read a text that deals with the story of popcorn at the movies. Present the three titles and have the students read quickly to decide on the best title for the reading.

Students check in pairs before discussing the answers as a class.

Answer: 2) The History of Popcorn at the Movies

As a bonus question, the teacher can ask the students why the other titles *are not* correct

- 3) Reading: Students then read the text again and answer the 9 questions. The teacher can do the first one as an example with the class to get started. Perhaps have them make notes / underline the answers rather than writing full sentences.

Students check in pairs before discussing the answers as a class.

Answers:

1. The 1890's
2. It was one of the few affordable treats
3. He sold fresh popcorn inside theaters
4. Oklahoma City in 1930
5. Because of the smell and mess it made
6. He created a popcorn popping factory
7. During WWII
8. That it would entice patrons to buy (tickets/popcorn)
9. Sam the Popcorn Man
10. To offset the cost of movie rentals/payments to movie studios

- 4) Vocabulary: Students are given ten 'eating words' related to snacks to unscramble. The students can work in pairs to figure out the words. Clarifying the meaning of these words may require gesture, visuals, specifics related to certain actions. The teacher will need to consider ahead of time how to convey and check the meanings.

Answer Key:

1. taste
2. munch
3. crunch
4. bite
5. suck
6. nibble
7. lick
8. chew
9. chomp
10. savor

- 5) Speaking: This task requires students to be creative with their partner. You may need to both go over the example idea to get students thinking about possible ideas, as well as possible adding one of your own to inspire their imagination. Monitor the students carefully as they work and supply ideas to help them move forward in the task. When finished, pairs can present their ideas to each other and to the class.

Student Worksheet 1

1 a) Can you name the snack food items below?



1 b) Which of these snacks do you enjoy eating? Do you eat them at home? What are some of your favorites?

2) You are going to read a short story about popcorn at the movies. Read it quickly and decide what the best title is for this story:

- 1) Why Popcorn and the Movies Go Together
- 2) The History of Popcorn and the Movies
- 3) The Advantages and Disadvantages of Popcorn at the Movies

Ever stop to wonder why we eat popcorn at the movies? I did some research. In the United States, popcorn was a popular snack at many entertainment venues as early as the 1890s (when street vendors would follow crowds around, pushing steam or gas-powered popcorn poppers through fairs, parks and expositions). During the Great Depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s, five and 10 cent bags of popcorn were one of the few treats struggling families were able to afford. Soon, people started taking this low-cost snack with them to enjoy while going to the cinema. But it was Samuel M. Rubin who made popcorn synonymous with going to the movies. Even though popcorn became a staple snack at movie theaters during the Great Depression, Rubin was one of the first to actually sell fresh popcorn *inside* the theaters. He introduced the snack to New York City movie theaters after seeing it served at a theater in Oklahoma City in 1930.

When he returned to New York he began selling popcorn at the concessions stands he ran at the Empire State Building, Central Park and the Westbury Music Fair on Long Island. At first, movie theater owners resisted having popcorn machines in the theaters proper because of the smell and mess it made. So Rubin created a popcorn popping factory that bagged the popcorn and delivered it to movie houses. During World War II, when sugar was rationed to send overseas to troops, it left little stateside to make candy. As a result, popcorn sales surged, and Americans ate three times as much popcorn as usual. Soon, theater owners began to appreciate the benefit of popping the corn in the theater, thinking now that the aroma would *entice* patrons to buy. For the next 60 years, Rubin (who would become known as "Sam, the Popcorn Man") and his partner, Marty Winter, provided concession stand refreshments (including popcorn) to many of the major movie chains in the New York metropolitan area, including RKO, Brandt and Loews. Today, to offset the cost of movie rentals (and payments to movie studios), theater chains sell gigantic buckets of popcorn (and cups of soda) at outrageous prices - a far cry from the once affordable snack that "Sam, the Popcorn Man" popularized at movie houses more than 75 years ago.

3) Read the story again and answer the following questions:

Example:

1. When did popcorn begin to be popular with entertainment?
2. Why was popcorn popular in the Great Depression?
3. What idea did Samuel Rubin have?
4. Where did Sam Rubin first see popcorn eaten in a theater?
5. Why didn't movie theaters want to have popcorn machines in the beginning?
6. What was Rubin's solution to movie houses that resisted making popcorn?
7. When did popcorn become really popular?
8. What did movie house owners eventually think about the aroma of popcorn?
9. What nickname did Samuel Rubin eventually receive?
10. Why are prices so high for such things as popcorn at movie houses?

Student Worksheet 2

4) Vocabulary: Unscramble the letters to discover the verbs associated with eating popcorn and other snack foods:

1. estat	2. nucmh	3. unchr	
4. eitb	5. ckus	6. BLEBIN	
7. kilc	8. HEWC	9. Homhc	10. vors a

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

