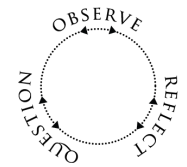


Children walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge prior to opening (short film)

<https://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/curated/children-walk-across-sydney-harbour-bridge-prior-opening>

Format: Motion Pictures



OBSERVE	REFLECT	QUESTION
<p>Describe what you see and hear. • What do you notice first? • Do you only see live action, or are there any special effects or animation? • Describe any words you see on the screen. • What do you notice about the length of the motion picture (film)? • Does anything about it seem strange or unusual? • What other details do you notice?</p> <p>When I watched this film I saw/heard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begins with title caption "The Melbourne Herald Newsreel. Sydney, NSW - Rain fails to damp ardor of school children as they stream across bridge on their special day". Also see on screen 'NFSA australia' watermark at top right and part of triangle logo at bottom. Instrumental band music plays over caption screen. - Next see/hear black and white film of excited noisy crowds of children walking quickly in neat rows along road. Escorted by some adults with umbrellas. - Man with Australian accent speaks over film saying neary 60,000 NSW school children crossi 	<p>What was the purpose of this motion picture? • Who do you think created it? • Who are the people in it? • Who do you think was the intended audience? • What feelings or ideas do you think its creators wanted to communicate? • If someone created this motion picture today, what would be different?</p> <p>Based on my observations I think:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film is Australian locally produced newsreel. Produced by 'The Melbourne Herald' which sounds like might be a newspaper. - Designed by the editors/producers to showcase triumphs of Australian engineering skills and urban planning thinking for an international audience, especially I think Americans. - Also highlights resilient spirit and adventurous nature of typical Australian school children! Little boy likely chosen because of his very cheeky confident nature. - If filmed today would feature colour and more impressive widescreen/aerial camera work (eg. 	<p>What do you wonder about... who? • what? • when? • where? • why? • how</p> <p>I'm wondering things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How widely this film was shown at the time and where? - What did people locally and overseas think about it at the time? - Is anyone in the film still alive now? What do they remember about that day? - How has this film lasted so well for so long?

ng Sydney Harbour Bridge before official opening, how significant event will be for them, day is wet so bridge lights turned on, how long it took to build bridge, its impressive size, and that it connects populations on northern and southern shores of Sydney Harbour. He makes comparison with bridges connecting divided areas across New York and Brooklyn.

- Then see/hear film of small boy standing on top of bridge looking down on marching school mates. Man says his name and that he's 435 feet above water! Boy talks to camera in strong Australian accent, saying something I can't make out then says how crowd look like ants.

- Details I notice are that film is quite short (about 1.5 minutes), narrator mentions obvious details all Australians would likely already be very familiar with, caption uses American spelling and narrator gives American comparison example.

use of helicopter or drones?) . Plus obviously much more focus on workplace health and safety precautions for people in front of and behind camera! Very different times back then!

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

The film I was looking at is on the National Film and Sound Archive website:

<https://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/curated/children-walk-across-sydney-harbour-bridge-prior-opening>

I could use the additional details they provide in their catalogue record for this film to help me look for Australian and overseas newspaper articles that might have been written at the time about this event and that might even mention the film being made of it and where this was shown.

[Acknowledgement: UOW Library has adapted this worksheet for inclusion on our UOW website with kind permission of the creators, the Library of Congress. The original interactive worksheet is hosted at: <https://www.loc.gov/teachers/primary-source-analysis-tool>]