



Activity One - Take In A Movie

Several movies have been made based on the book, ***Cheaper by the Dozen***. Although only “loosely” based on the book, the 1950 film adaptation starring Clifton Webb and Jeanne Crain, was probably the closest to the original. A sequel to this film, also based on a Gilbreth book, ***Belles on their Toes***, was released in 1952.

A similar movie, ***Yours, Mine and Ours***, starring Henry Fonda and Lucille Ball, was quite successful when released in 1968. The book, ***Cheaper by the Dozen***, was also one of the inspirations for the television series, ***The Brady Bunch***.

In 2003 another version of the film was released starring Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt. This adaptation bore almost no resemblance to the book, nor did its sequel, ***Cheaper by the Dozen 2***.

Consider this...
A year before starring as the mother in Cheaper by the Dozen, Jeanne Crain won a Best Actress Oscar for her role in the film, Pinky. Her co-star, Clifton Webb, was nominated several times for an academy award.

Your task is to take in a viewing of one of the adaptations mentioned above. Write a brief report (approximately one page in length) comparing the actual novel with a movie adaptation. You might consider the following:

- How the film brought the novel to life (or failed to).
- How suited were the actors to their roles?
- Were any “liberties” taken with the novel’s adaptation to the big screen?
- Do you think the media of film is superior to a novel?
- Are there any significant changes you would recommend to the producer of the film?



Activity Two

The Pierce-Arrow

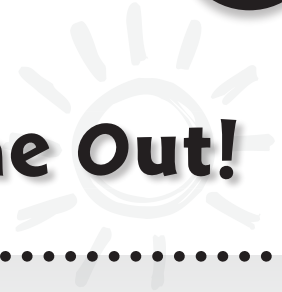
The Gilbreth's first family car was the *Pierce-Arrow*. The **Pierce-Arrow** was an American automobile manufacturer based in Buffalo, New York, between 1901 and 1938, whose specialty was luxury automobiles. Research an automobile from this era. You may choose one of the many Pierce- Arrow models, or one of its contemporaries:

- Daimler,
- Rolls Royce Silver Ghost
- Haynes
- Maxwell
- Ford Model T

Be sure to include a description of the car, its history (and fate), and other interesting facts you uncover in your research. You may even wish to include a picture or drawing of the automobile of your choice. For budding engineers, you may wish to design your own automobile - keeping it in line with those produced during this historical era.

Consider this...

Many famous people owned a Pierce-Arrow. These included: Emperor Hirohito of Japan, President Woodrow Wilson, President William Taft, John D. Rockefeller, Orville Wright, Babe Ruth, John Ringling (Ringling Brothers Circus) and Ginger Rogers



Activity Three

Tonsils? They've got to Come Out!

Chapter 10 of **Cheaper by the Dozen** documents the perilous adventures of a number of the Gilbreth children (and their father) having their tonsils removed – under rather extraordinary circumstances. Perhaps you, a friend, or someone in your family has also undergone this surgery – but hopefully you didn't have the operation filmed for future study.

What are tonsils? What is the purpose of these troublesome little tissues in your throat? Why do so many people have to have them removed – and often very early in their lives?

Your task is to do some research on this troublesome little organ. You might wish to consider:

- its appearance, size, color
- its function
- why can it cause so much trouble?
- what is a tonsillectomy?
- how does the body compensate for missing tonsils?
- either from your own experience or by speaking with someone who has undergone a tonsillectomy, describe the procedure and its aftermath.
- you may also wish to include a diagram

Your research should be approximately one page in length.

NAME: _____



Activity Four - The Roaring 20's

This activity can be done individually or in small groups.

Cheaper by the Dozen documents the adventures of the Gilbreth family up until their father's death in 1924. The 1920's in North America stands out as an era of dynamic change and social upheaval. Tucked between World War One (1914-1918) and the Great Depression of the 1930's, the 1920's was a time of unprecedented industrial growth and consumer demand, and significant changes in lifestyle. It was a time known for its prosperity and the introduction of a whole array of consumer goods. Modern technology made everything seem possible during this decade. Automobiles, airplanes, movies and radio became an important part of the North American culture. Jazz and dancing became popular pastimes; so much so that this era is also called **The Jazz Age**. Writers such as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald were extremely popular. In 1927 the first talking movie, **The Jazz Singer**, was released. The 1920's are also known for Prohibition (in the United States); fashions; the speakeasy; Charles Lindbergh's first solo flight across the Atlantic; baseball players such as Babe Ruth; and gangsters such as Al Capone. The Roaring 20s came to an abrupt halt in October, 1929 when the stock market crashed, plunging North America and much of the world into the Great Depression.

Your task is to write an article on one aspect of **the Roaring 20's**. It can be about a personality of that era (i.e. Eliot Ness of the Untouchables), a particular fashion (the style of the flappers); an interesting piece of technology (airplane, automobile); a spectacular achievement; or an interesting event.

Your article should be about a page in length. It should include a **headline** and a **byline**. You may wish to check out a couple of articles in a national or local magazine to get a flavor for this kind of writing – especially the opening line – which is so critical for hooking your readers.

Good luck and good reporting!

NAME: _____



Activity Five

Take a picture - It lasts longer!

This activity can be done individually or in small groups.

Photography was one of the many pursuits of Frank Gilbreth Sr. Unfortunately for him and his family, photography was still in its infancy during the first couple of decades of the 20th Century.

Since 1827, when the first successful picture was produced by Niépce, until today, with its high-speed digital cameras, photography has undergone numerous changes and improvements. Significant milestones in this process included the **Daguerreotype** in 1839 (a similar process to that used for Poloroid photos); the **Calotype** invented by William Henry Fox Talbot in the same year. Later **George Eastman** refined Talbot's process, and it is this basic technology which is used by chemical film cameras today. The first permanent color photograph was taken in 1861 by the Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell. Digital photography was introduced in 1969 by Willard Boyle and George E. Smith at AT&T Bell Labs.

Your task is to investigate one aspect of photography and report on it. You may choose a particular invention (i.e. the Poloroid camera, the first movie camera, the daguerreotype). Describe the invention in simple terms and explain why this invention was important to the world of photography. You may also choose an important inventor in this field.

Write a synopsis of the topic of about one page in length. You may include a picture or diagram.



Activity Six - Promo Artists

This activity can be done individually or in small groups.

Chapter 14, *Flash Powder and Funerals*, recalls the amusing story of how Mr. Gilbreth went to great lengths to promote the products of an automatic pencil company he was working for. He and the children went through an elaborate ceremony of burying a casket filled with wooden pencils in order to bring attention to this marvelous new invention – the automatic pencil. Their efforts were very successful, garnering the automatic pencil company with much favorable publicity.

Creative advertising can be an enormous advantage to a company attempting to sell its product out in the marketplace. Competition is very tough, and an ingenious advertising campaign can sometimes mean millions of dollars in sales.

Investigate a current advertisement. This can be a full-color ad in a national magazine; a television or radio commercial; an internet ad; or a poster.

- Describe the ad (if relevant and possible, include a picture).
- Comment on the audience the ad was directed to (i.e. teenagers, middle-aged men; the elderly; young girls, etc.).
- What does the ad actually state? What is implied?
- In your opinion, is the ad effective or ineffective? Explain your reasons.
- What changes would you make to the ad to make it better?
