

Film prompt cards Ayisha Audrain

- Thomas Edison (the man who invented the lightbulb amongst other things) developed a film camera called the Kinetoscope and he held the patent for that technology which meant that he held a monopoly over films in the United States, which means that Edison had complete control over the industry.
- Edison formed the Motion Picture Patents Company in 1908 which was a conglomerate of nine major studios and it was designed to regulate who could and couldn't make films and they discouraged the production of feature films, preferring shorter ones (these short films were known as "one - reels", and longer films were known as "two reels" and "three reels ", although you could use more reels). One of the members of the Motion Picture Patents Company, George Eastman (the founder of the camera company Kodak) owned the patent for raw film stock (the physical film) and he agreed to only sell it to other members and this severely restricted who could make films and these restrictions severely hindered the growth of film.
- independent filmmakers, who controlled one third of the domestic film market in the United States moved to Hollywood, California in order to get far away from Edison's base in West Orange, New Jersey - this is the reason why the American film industry is based in Hollywood. This marks the beginning of the studio system that lasted for the next few decades.

Kacper Bojarski

- Film at this time started moving away from side-shows and moving theatres and started to set up in permanent, dedicated buildings started to appear. The first recorded movie theatre was Tally's Electric Theatre in Los Angeles, California. Camera technology at the time was growing and a lot of various formats were beginning to emerge like the Micrograph camera by Goudeau and co. The camera's invention allowed a lot more people to access film and try and direct movies. [William Wardell](#) invents an 11 mm amateur film format, Vitak.
- In 1905 the first Nickelodeon opened in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania USA, this was a small room, often a shop, that was converted to allow people to go in and watch movies. The Silent films were popular with immigrants that arrived in America. Camera formats were also continuing to be invented. The lack of a standard in the industry meant that film quality heavily varied from film. [Pathé Frères](#) colors black-and-white films by machine.