

Walt Disney:
A Break-through in Animation

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Junior Division

Individual Documentary

Student Composed Words in Process Paper (499)

Process Paper

My sister did National History Day last year and got to Nationals, so I was excited knowing I would get to do it! When deciding my topic, I was told to choose a topic I was passionate about. So, I thought about for a while and found it. I choose Walt Disney and his breakthrough in animation. I have always wondered how the Disney Movies I watched work and how they weren't real humans. I wanted to learn more, and I wanted to see how it works, and who created it? I really was passionate about this subject and glad I choose it!

I think the hardest part of this project was the research and, I had my ways to create an easier way to conduct the research. I of course first used the data bases (Britannica, Gale, etc.) and saved the links into my notebook to cite and annotate later. I then started using a few websites and a lot of books, and books were helpful for primary source's imagery for the use in my documentary. I then started to find images of Walt Disney and videos from his film so that I could have a good difference in the imagery on the screen. After this I started annotating and citing all my sources on noodles tools to organize them. This might have been the biggest time-consuming part of the research.

When deciding my category, I had to think about what would make me want to keep working on this. I thought about how my brother and I use to make homemade movies on the app iMovie and that is when it had hit me that a documentary might be perfect for me! I decided that I would make this a fun and interesting project because I love video editing and animation. I really think that choosing the documentary category was right for me because it kept me interested and wanting to do more.

I created my project/documentary on the iMovie app automatically installed on Apple laptops. I thought it would be easiest to create something on a platform I have already used before. Using a platform that I knew how to use also made it more fun to do because I got to explore the app a little more of what looks best for the style and what I like to do. I think iMovie is a good system to use for History Day because it keeps it organized and fun to do.

The title of my project I Walt Disney: A breakthrough in Animation, and I wanted my title to clearly state that it broke barriers. I made sure that it broke barriers because that was the theme, and I could not have a project not relating to the theme. Walt Disney also broke barriers in animation in many ways. The ways he broke barriers was by using color and by using sound in his cartoon. That is how he broke animation barriers.

Works Cited

Primary Sources

- Crosby, Kevin J. "Skews.Me." *Skews.Me - Walt Disney's Youth*, SKEWS.ME, www.skewsmc.com/walts_youth.html. This includes an image of Walt's parents. This was taken after Walt's parents marriage and is a primary source. I used this to talk about Walt's childhood.
- Disney, Walter Elias, director. *Steamboat Willie*. Walt Disney Animation, 1928. In is an animation film about Mickey Mouse created by Walt Disney. This source is credible because it was created by the person my project is about. This helped me realize the difference in older animations compared to newer ones.
- Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Animation, Live Action Reference*. Directed by Walter Elias Disney, Walt Disney Studios, February 13, 1952. This included live action footage of Snow White actors. It was created by the Disney Company. I used this in my documentary.
- "11 Facts You Didn't Know About Walter Elias Disney - Disney Dining Information." *DisneyDining*, DisneyDining.com, 14 Jan. 2018, www.disneydining.com/11-facts-you-didnt-know-about-walter-elias-disney-2/. This was an image of Walt in his child hood. This was taken with Walt at his farm. I have used this in my documentary.
- Friedman, Loren. "Chicago Wabash and Wacker Picture." *Flickr*, Yahoo!, 15 Jan. 2013, www.flickr.com/photos/75433821@N08/8382543654/in/photostream/. This includes an image of Chicago. It was a primary source picture. I used this image in documentary.
- Galuppo, Mia. "Long Lost 'Oswald the Lucky Rabbit' Disney Animation Discovered in BFI Archives." *The Hollywood Reporter*, Hollywood Reporter, 4 Nov. 2015, www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/oswald-lucky-rabbit-disney-animation-836707. This included original video of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. This was from Walt Disney's first studio. I used the video for my documentary.
- How Walt Disney Cartoons Are Made*. Narrated by Samuel Armstrong, RKO studios, 1938. In this source it explained animation really well and simply. It is a credible source because it was created because people wondered how *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was made. This will help me explain how animation works.
- "Margaret J. Winkler." *Disney Wiki*, disney.fandom.com/wiki/Margaret_J._Winkler. This included information and pictures of Margaret Winkler. This was created by people passionate for Walt's animations detail. I used an image in my documentary.
- Rigby, Butch. "LAUGH-O-GRAM ANIMATION History." *Thank You Walt Disney*, Thank You Walt Disney Inc., 2020, thankyouwaltdisney.org/history/. Accessed 31 Jan. 2020. This source included information about Walt's first animation company. This author lives in the city where this company was created (Kansas City). I learn about how Walt was influenced by his first company.
- Savvas, George. *Disney Parks Blog*, Disney Parks Blog, 14 Nov. 2014, disneyarks.disney.go.com/blog/2014/11/building-the-dream-the-making-of-disneyland-park-main-entrance/. This is a picture of Disneyland entrance. It was created by a blog owned by Disney. This was used in my Disneyland section of my documentary.

Schwartz, Shelly. "Biography of Walt Disney, Animator and Film Producer." *LiveAbout*, LiveAbout, 23 Jan. 2020, www.liveabout.com/walt-disney-1779844. This source included a picture of Walt Disney drawing or sketching. This was created by a passionate for Disney. I used this for imagery for my documentary.

"Society Dog Show Pluto Mickey Mouse Animation Drawing (Walt Disney, Lot #17981." *Heritage Auctions*, Heritage Auctions, 2020, comics.ha.com/itm/animation-art/production-drawing/society-dog-show-pluto-mickey-mouse-animation-drawing-walt-disney-1939-/a/122004-17981.s. This included images and information about Mickey Mouse. Had primary pictures of Mickey Mouse. This helped with Images for my documentary.

Steam Trains Speeding along (1947). Pathè, 1947. This source showed recordings of steam trains. This source was created in 1947. This helped me with footage for my documentary.

Troy, Gil. *The Daily Beast*, The Daily Beast Company, 17 July 2015, www.thedailybeast.com/how-walt-disney-made-america-into-a-magic-kingdom. This contained original drawings from Walt Disney. This is a credible primary source. I used this photo for my documentary.

Walt Disney Animation Studio Walkthrough. Narrated by Walter Elias Disney, Walt Disney Animation Studios, 1936. This source showed behind the scenes of Walt's studio. This source is trusted because it was narrated by Walt himself. This will help me with my visuals on my documentary and information about the talent it takes to make animations.

Walt Disney Family. Photographs of Walt's Family. Digital file, 1900's. This source was of multiple photographs of Walt and his family through the years. This source was from American Experience a well known and done site. This will help with pictures and videos through out my Documentary and helped with what happened with him and his family at the younger stages.

Walt Disney - History, Family Footage, Pinocchio, Fantasia, Studio. Produced by Walt Disney Family Museum, Walt Disney Family Museum, 2011. This short informational video has interviews from several animators and also many pictures. This is a trusted source because it was created by Walt's family. This really helped me see what the animators thought.

"Walt Disney Seated at a Drawing Board." *The Pendergast Years*, KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY , 30 Jan. 2018, pendergastkc.org/collection/9704/umkc-004/walt-disney-seated-drawing-board. This was an image of Walt Disney working on animations. This was created by a library. I'm using this image in my project.

Walt Disney Studio. "Walt Disney Animation Studio." *Disneyanimation.com*, Disney Company, 2019, www.disneyanimation.com/. Accessed 19 Dec. 2019. This Article really focused on the entrepreneurial side of things. Authors is from a credible database. Article helped me focus on the company more than Walt.

Secondary Sources

Biography.com. "Walt Disney Biography." *Biography.com*, A Mavven Channel, 27 Apr. 2017, www.biography.com/business-figure/walt-disney. Accessed 19 Dec. 2019. Explain Mr. Disney's life in short detail. Author is knowledgeable from a often used website (Biography.com) This helped explain his life quickly in low amount of detail.

Fanning, Jim. *Walt Disney*. Chelsea House, 1994. This book really focused on Walt's feelings. This is a reliable source because Jim Fanning is a well know author. This helped me see what walt wanted to be done.

Fanning, Jim. *The Disney Book: a Celebration of the World of Disney*. DK, Penguin Random House, 2016. This book focused on a lot of the Disney Parks. This author I can rely on because I used his books for other information. This helped me find Walt's vision.

Furniss, Maureen. *A New History of Animation*. Thames & Hudson, 2016. This source focused on Animation itself and not Disney. This is a credible source because it is a well written book. This helped me focus on the process of animation.

Gottwald, Dave. "The 'Real' Main Street U.S.A." *Themerica*, Themerica, 14 June 2019, www.themerica.org/blog/2019/06/13/marceline. This included information and imagery about Walt's home town. This was created by a person in Missouri. I used this information for my documentary.

Historic Missourians. "Walt Disney (1901 - 1966)." *Historicmissourians.org*, State Historical Society of Missouri, 2019, historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/d/disney/. Accessed 19 Dec. 2019. Was keen on explaining early life of Walter. Site is credible because it came from a museum. Explained in well detail his younger life.

History.com, A&E Television Networks, 27 July 2019, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/disneyland-opens. This source had information about Disneyland. This was done by the credible History.com company. I used the information in my script.

Kurtti, Jeff. "Ub Iwerks: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdom." *Disney Parks Blog*, Disney Parks Blog, 2019, disneyparks.disney.go.com/blog/2019/11/ub-iwerks-from-mickey-mouse-to-the-magic-kingdom/. This includes information about Ub Iwerks. This was created by Walt Disney Studios. I used this in my documentary script.

Malave, Tina, and Kabc. "Following in Walt Disney's Footsteps through Los Angeles." *ABC7 Los Angeles*, ABC Los Angeles, 19 Nov. 2018, abc7.com/2821057/. This gave me a short summary of Walt's life. This was created by a credible news source. I used this information through out my documentary.

Stewart, Whitney, and Nancy Harrison. *Who Was Walt Disney?* Scholastic Inc., 2018. Stewart, Whitney, and Nancy Harrison. *Who Was Walt Disney?* Scholastic Inc., 2018. Explained Elias's life simply and quickly. Came from a well known series (who was?). This helped me find the basics of his life.

"Ub Iwerks - The Forgotten Man of Disney." *DocumentaryTube*, 4 Apr. 2016, www.documentarytube.com/articles/ub-iwerks-the-forgotten-man-of-disney. This is a short documentary about Ub Iwerks. This was created by a interested person inspired by Disney. I used the information for my Alice Cartoons section.

"Walt Disney." *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 7 Dec. 2019. school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/Walt-Disney/274020. Accessed 19 Dec. 2019. This article explained Walt's life well. The authors is knowledge able from a database. Taught me about his first step of his animation company.

"Walt Disney." *Gale Middle School Online Collection*, Gale, 2017. *Gale In Context: Middle School*, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/JYWIZY053085635/MSIC?u=omah93080&sid=MSIC&xid=a560ba40>. Accessed 19 Dec. 2019. Explained Walt's life similarly to other database. Found on trusted database. Explained his life in high amounts of detail.

"Walt Disney Studios." *Gale In Context Online Collection*, Gale, 2016. *Gale In Context: Middle School*, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/PXYQCF774700499/MSIC?u=omah93080&sid=MSIC&xid=2ce92f45>. Accessed 19 Dec. 2019. Article really focused on the entrepreneurial side of things like other similar articles. Authors came from a credible database. Article helped me focus on the company more than Walt himself.

Walt Disney Studios. "About Walt Disney" ["Walt Disney Studios"]. *D23.com*, Walt Disney Studios, 2019, [d23.com/about-walt-disney/](https://www.d23.com/about-walt-disney/). Accessed 4 Feb. 2020. This really is a summarization of Walt's life. This is made by Disney Studios and knows a lot about Walt. This helped me with learning about his first animation company.