

# TEACHERS' NOTES



Aimed at primary school pupils, the ideas in this study guide are starting points for a cross-curricular project on the film *Tarzan* at Key Stages 1 and 2. Many curriculum areas are covered although the focus is on Literacy, Geography and Information Communication Technology.

The activities seek to complement and extend the pleasure the children will have derived from a visit to the cinema whilst at the same time meeting some of the requirements of the National Curriculum, Scottish and Welsh Guidelines and the National Literacy Strategy. The table on the inside back cover can be used for planning and record keeping. Subject focus areas are outlined on each page.



If you have any children's work you would like to send in based on the film *Tarzan* we would be very grateful and will even send you a little thank you! Our address is on the back of this study guide.

## SEND THE KIDS TO ANOTHER PLANET - SAFELY

Internet access for children takes a major step forward as Cable & Wireless communications becomes the first major UK ISP to actively vet around 50,000,000 web pages and recommend them for younger users.

**Planet Kids** provides unlimited access to around 50,000 child-friendly websites for £2.95 per month. Every website - and the organisations behind them - are carefully vetted before inclusion in the package so parents or guardians can be confident that content is suitable for children.

Existing customers can join from the Cable & Wireless home page while new customers should call 0800 0923013 for further information or visit [www.cwcom.net](http://www.cwcom.net) and a free Internet Lite subscription. The service is available nationally - with the monthly fee of £2.95 charged to the Cable & Wireless telephone bill.

This study guide has accompanying interactive activities on the website ([www.disney.co.uk/tarzan](http://www.disney.co.uk/tarzan)) and on Film Education's own exclusive website ([www.filmeducation.org](http://www.filmeducation.org)). Printable masks can be downloaded from the Disney website which can be worn to the free preview screenings of *Tarzan* during National Schools Film Week (4th-8th October, 1999).

# THE TARZAN TALE



The film *Tarzan* is based on a classic novel, *Tarzan of the Apes* which was written over 80 years ago by a man called Edgar Rice Burroughs. See if you can find a copy of it in your school library.

E R Burroughs' novel has inspired over 50 *Tarzan* movies over the years and each one has been slightly different to the original novel.

## QUESTION

How does Disney's *Tarzan* compare to the novel?

One way of finding out is by reading the back cover 'blurb'\* of the novel and comparing it to the 'synopsis\*\* of the film. This will give you an outline of what the two stories are about and will tell you any major differences there are between the two.



\*A 'blurb' is a short description of a story - especially a story in a book.

\*\*A 'synopsis' is a summary of what happens in a story - especially a story in a film.



## TASK 1

Read through the following passages on page 4, thinking about the differences that there are between the two. It might help you to underline them. Once you have read them through, fill in the grid on page 5 showing the similarities and differences between the two plot lines...

## BACK COVER BLURB OF BOOK

*The young Tarzan was unlike the great apes who were his only companions and playmates. Theirs was a simple, savage life, filled with little but killing or being killed. But Tarzan had all of a normal boy's desire to learn, and he had painfully taught himself to read from books left by his dead father. Now he tried to apply this book knowledge to the world of the jungle.*

*He sought for such things as the source of dreams and the whereabouts of God. And he searched for the love and affection that every human being needs. But he was alone in his struggles to grow and understand - and the life of the jungle had no room for abstractions.*

*Jungle Tales of Tarzan, Edgar Rice Burroughs  
(Ballantine Books, 1992)*



## FILM SYNOPSIS

Based on the immortal classic novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Walt Disney Pictures' exciting new animated feature, *Tarzan*, uses the unlimited boundaries of the medium of animation to create a

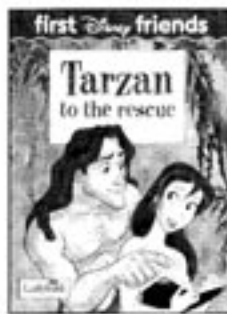
version of the story that goes far beyond any of its cinematic predecessors. Combining breathtaking jungle action with humour, sensational music and powerful emotional themes, the film follows the extraordinary adventures of an orphaned human infant raised by a family of gorillas, who accept him as one of their own. As *Tarzan* matures into a young man with all the instincts of a jungle animal and the physical prowess of an athletic superstar, his life changes forever when he finally meets other humans, with whom he feels an immediate and irresistible bond. His dilemma is further complicated by the discovery that not all humans can be trusted; and the realisation that he has strong feelings for a woman named Jane.

### HELPFUL HINT:

When you compare the two passages, use a dictionary to look up the words that you do not know.

## TASK 2

Write the back cover blurb for the following books, based on what you can see on the covers.



The full range of Tarzan tie-in titles are available from Ladybird books.

# BOOK TO SCREEN DIFFERENCES

BOOK BACK COVER BLURB	FILM SYNOPSIS
<b>Similarities</b>	<b>Similarities</b>
<b>Differences</b>	<b>Differences</b>

## QUESTIONS

- 1 Why do books have 'back cover blurbs'?
- 2 Why do films have synopses?
- 3 Why do you think there are differences between the two?
- 4 Why is it that the book blurb and the film synopsis are not exactly the same?  
(Think about when the book was written and how a story is told through film and through words...)

*(LITERACY: Comparing different types of text.)*

# BRINGING TARZAN TO LIFE



Disney's animators turned to Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel to help them animate the film *Tarzan*.

Here is how Tarzan is described in the original novel:

*'He could spring 20 feet across space at the dizzy height of the forest top and grab with unerring precision and without apparent jar, a limb waving wildly in the path of an approaching tornado.'*

*Tarzan of the Apes*, Edgar Rice Burroughs (Ballantine, 1912)

## TASK

Draw what you think Tarzan should look like according to the above quote.

## QUESTIONS

- 1 What do you think is meant by 'the dizzy height'?
- 2 What does 'unerring' mean? Find out by looking it up in the dictionary.
- 3 People would not say 'without apparent jar' any more. What would they say instead?
- 4 Change *Tarzan's* description as if you were describing him to your friends, using your own words and adjectives.

# ANIMAL INSTINCT



One of Disney's top animators, Glen Keane was given the task of bringing the character of *Tarzan* to life. He decided to create a lead character who combined animal qualities with modern-day surfers, skaters and snowboarders.

The animation team who created the character of Tarzan studied animal movement so that they could get the feel of how Tarzan himself might have moved through the jungle.



## TASK 1

Find out about the following animals. Choose one of the animals, draw and label it then in a few words, describe how it moves.

panther  
leopard  
gorilla  
chimpanzee  
gibbon  
snake  
baboon  
gazelle  
chameleon



## TASK 2

Choose one of the above animals and imitate (copy) how it moves. Get your friends to sketch you. Show how your chosen animal moves by drawing it on a film storyboard as on page 8. Next to your detailed drawings, write where the camera would be positioned to film it, and what can be seen in each shot.

# ANIMAL MOVEMENT STORYBOARD



Tazari © Owned by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.  
and Used by Permission, © Burroughs and Disney



**DESCRIPTION OF MOVEMENT AND  
CAMERA ANGLE:**



**DESCRIPTION OF MOVEMENT AND  
CAMERA ANGLE:**



**DESCRIPTION OF MOVEMENT AND  
CAMERA ANGLE:**



**DESCRIPTION OF MOVEMENT AND  
CAMERA ANGLE:**

# STATE-OF-THE-ART ART

Disney is famous for telling stories through new and exciting animation techniques. The animators for the film *Tarzan* created a whole new process which meant that they could get the characters to move about in what seems to be a three-dimensional (3-D) jungle world.

The animators wanted to create a world on the big screen that looked as though there was a camera on Tarzan's shoulder as he swung through the jungle on a vine. They created a special computer programme called **Deep Canvas**. These are the basic instructions for how Deep Canvas works:



**1 FIRST THE BACKGROUND IS DRAWN IN PENCIL.**



**2 THEN, A ROUGH LAYOUT DRAWING IS PRODUCED USING 3-D WIRE-FRAME MODELS FOR THE ROCKS, TREES AND VINES IN THE BACKGROUND.**



**3 THE ROUGH MODELS ARE MADE TO LOOK MORE REALISTIC BY ADDING MOSS AND LEAVES.**



**4 AN ARTIST MAKES A PENCIL SKETCH SHOWING THE LIGHTING AND TEXTURE (FEEL) OF THE 3-D PARTS.**



**5 A BACKGROUND ARTIST THEN PAINTS THE IMAGE ON THE COMPUTER, DIGITALLY.**



**6 NEXT, MORE 3-D OBJECTS ARE ADDED IN.**

**7 FINALLY, THE IMAGE IS MADE CLEARER AND IS READY TO BE PART OF THE FILM.**

These stages are followed for each of the drawings for the film. On average, there are 24 pictures drawn for one second of film. The film is 88 minutes long.

## QUESTIONS

- 1 Given the information above, can you **estimate** (guess) how many frames (pictures) were drawn for the whole film?
- 2 Now can you work it out?
- 3 What equation could you use to work this out for other animated films?



## TASK

Re-write the instructions above, as if you were telling your grandparents about the computer programme Deep Canvas.



# JUNGLE LIFE VERSUS WESTERN CIVILISATION



Tarzan's world changes forever when he meets Professor Porter and his daughter Jane. Before meeting them he had no idea that there were creatures in the world who looked just like him. Jane and her father teach Tarzan all he needs to know about western civilisation.

Put yourself in Tarzan's position.

## QUESTIONS

- 1 How do you think Tarzan felt about the discovery that there were other people like him in the world?
- 2 What do you think he felt about the fact that people live in houses, not trees; that they wear suits and shoes and that they drive cars and go to cinemas?



## TASK 1

List the main differences between the world that Professor Porter and Jane come from and Tarzan's jungle environment.

## TASK 2

Write a conversation between Jane and Tarzan in which she explains the modern world to him.



# TEACHING TARZAN



Jane has the task of teaching Tarzan about the human way of life. She tells him about things using photographs and moving images.

## QUESTION

How and what would you teach Tarzan today?

## TASK

Ask your teacher how he or she plans the lessons that you are taught in a week.

Make up your own teaching plan for a week of lessons for Tarzan. Fill in the timetable below, showing what and how you would teach him e.g. what special equipment could you use to make it interesting for Tarzan? Remember! The lessons you teach him do not have to be average, run-of-the-mill ones - make them interesting!

	am	lunch	pm	homework
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				



# CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

	National Curriculum	National Literacy Strategy	Scottish Guidelines	Welsh National Curriculum
The Tarzan Tale		WORD LEVEL - Vocabulary extension. TEXT LEVEL - Fiction reading comprehension.		
Book to Screen Differences		WORD LEVEL - Vocabulary extension. TEXT LEVEL - Fiction reading comprehension & writing composition.		
Bringing Tarzan to Life	ART - AT1.	WORD LEVEL - Vocabulary extension. TEXT LEVEL - Fiction writing composition.	ART & DESIGN - Expressing Feelings & Ideas.	ART - Making & Investigating.
Animal Instinct	SCIENCE - AT2, 5a & b. ART - AT1.	TEXT LEVEL - Non-fiction writing composition.	SCIENCE - Understanding Living Things & The Processes of Life. Interaction of living things with their environment, the variety & characteristics of living things. ART & DESIGN - Investigating visually and recording.	SCIENCE - as National Curriculum. ART - Making & Investigating.
Animal Movement Storyboard	SCIENCE - AT2, 5a & b.	TEXT LEVEL - Non-fiction writing composition.	SCIENCE - Understanding Living Things & The Processes of Life. Interaction of living things with their environment, the variety & characteristics of living things.	SCIENCE - as National Curriculum.
State-of-the-art Art	MATHS - AT2, 4a, b & c.	TEXT LEVEL - Non-fiction reading comprehension & writing composition.	MATHS - Number, Functions and Equations.	MATHS - as National Curriculum.
Jungle Life versus Western Civilization	GEOGRAPHY - 4, 5a, b, c.	TEXT LEVEL - Fiction writing composition. Non-fiction writing composition.	SOCIAL SUBJECTS - Understanding People & Place. Locations, linkages & networks.	GEOGRAPHY - 3, 4a, b, d & e.
Music - Trashing the Camp	MUSIC - AT1 & 2.		MUSIC - Using materials & techniques, skills & media. Expressing feelings, ideas, thoughts & solutions.	MUSIC - Performing, Composing & Appraising.
Teaching Tarzan		TEXT LEVEL - Fiction writing composition.		