Introduction

Films and videos are an important part of modern life and entertainment. The variety of genres of films and videos appeals to our cultural diversity. The choice is wide enough for every taste. Young people spend a great deal of time watching movies, television and videos. It is difficult to imagine that a hundred and fifty years ago, this important element of our cultural universe did not exist.

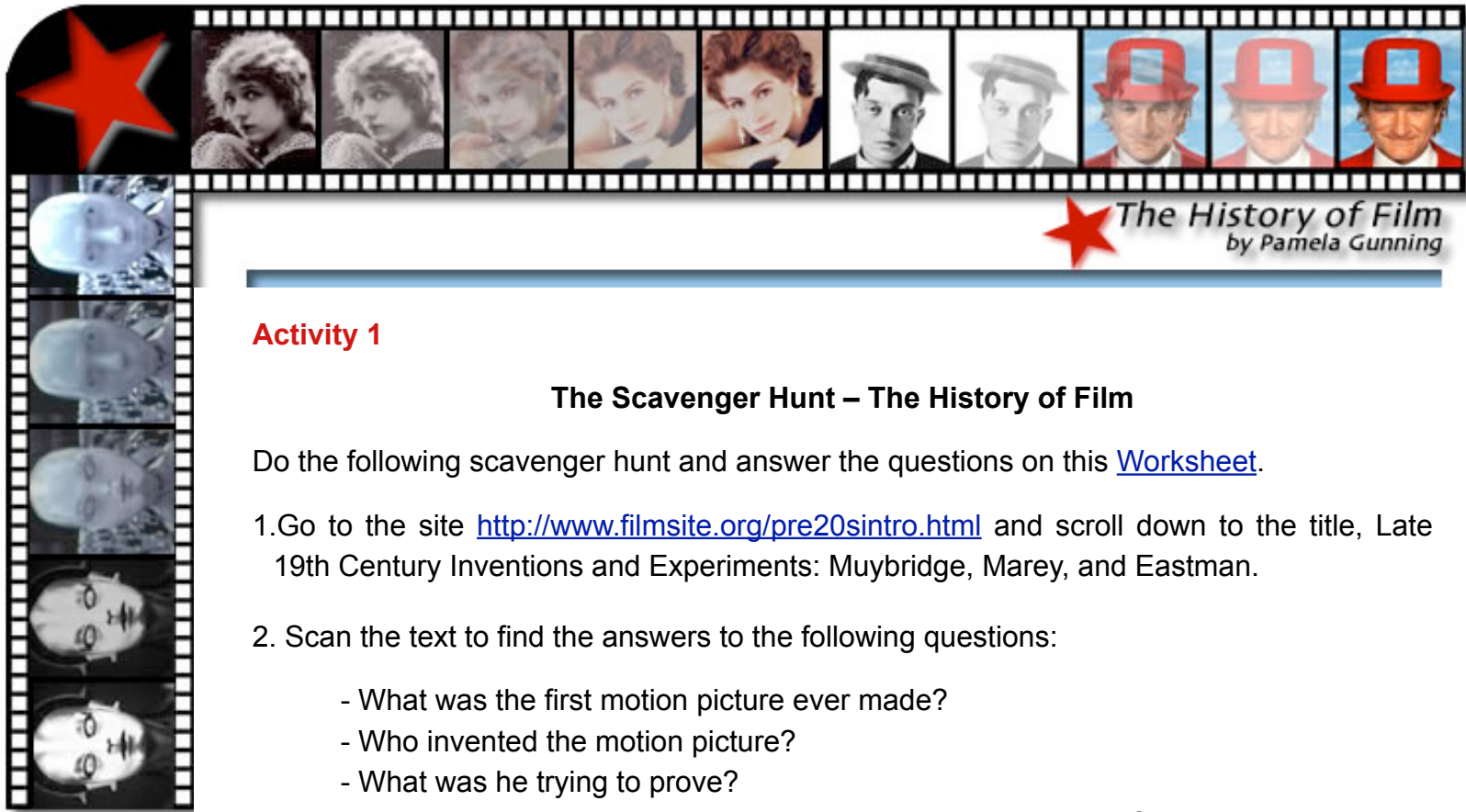Do you know about the history of your favourite genre of video or film?

Task

Your task is to prepare a media text giving information about the film or video genre of your choice. Your presentation could be a two-minute digital video, a digital multimedia slide show (PowerPoint type) with clips of an example of the video or film genre inserted, etc. Your media text will be presented at a mini film fair. You will work with a partner.

You will:

• Do research on the Internet to find information on:

    -the history of film

    -different genres of films or videos

• Find a partner with similar interests as you in films or videos.

With your partner you will:

• Choose a genre of film or video, and your presentation technique

• Do research to find out more about
    - your chosen genre of film or video
    - techniques for your production

• Take notes in your journal

• Use a production process to create your presentation.

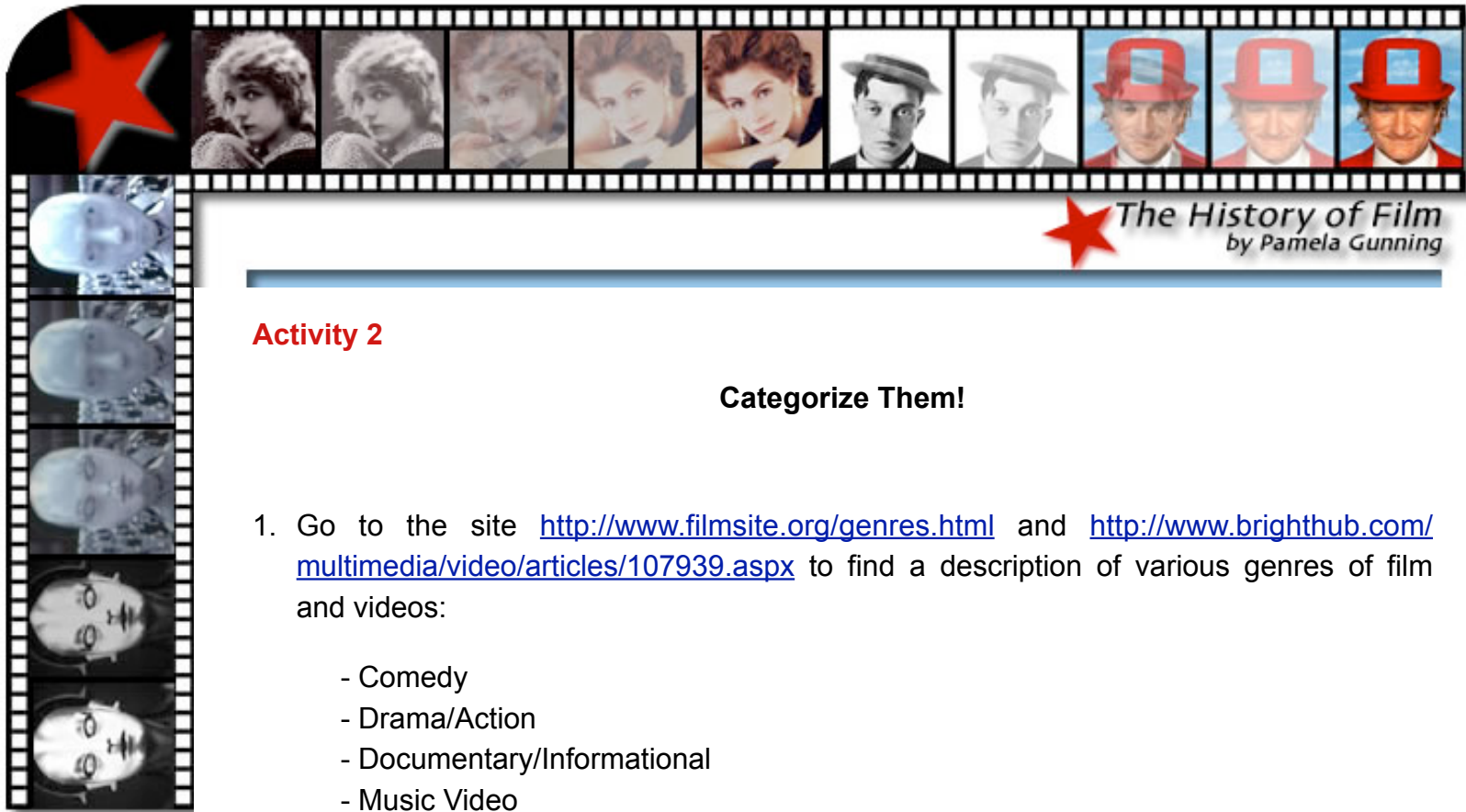• Present your final product at The Mini Film Fair.

Activity 1

The Scavenger Hunt – The History of Film

Do the following scavenger hunt and answer the questions on this Worksheet.

1.Go to the site http://www.filmsite.org/pre20sintro.html and scroll down to the title, Late 19th Century Inventions and Experiments: Muybridge, Marey, and Eastman.

2. Scan the text to find the answers to the following questions:

- What was the first motion picture ever made?
- Who invented the motion picture?
- What was he trying to prove?
- Who were the Parisian innovators who invented the cinema?
- What date was the cinema born?

3. Go to the site http://www.filmsite.org/voya.html and scan the text to find the answers to the following questions:

- What was the title of the first science fiction movie?
- How long was the movie?
- Who was the director?
- What books inspired the movie?
- Who played the leading role in the movie?
- What are the characteristics of the science-fiction genre?
- How many scenes are there in the story?
- Where does the story take place?
- Who explains the plan for the exploratory trip?
- Where are they planning to go?

4. Compare your answers with a partner.

5. Participate, as the teacher corrects the activity with the class.

Activity 2

Categorize Them!

1. Go to the site http://www.filmsite.org/genres.html and http://www.brighthub.com/multimedia/video/articles/107939.aspx to find a description of various genres of film and videos:

   - Comedy
   - Drama/Action
   - Documentary/Informational
   - Music Video
   - Animation/Experimental
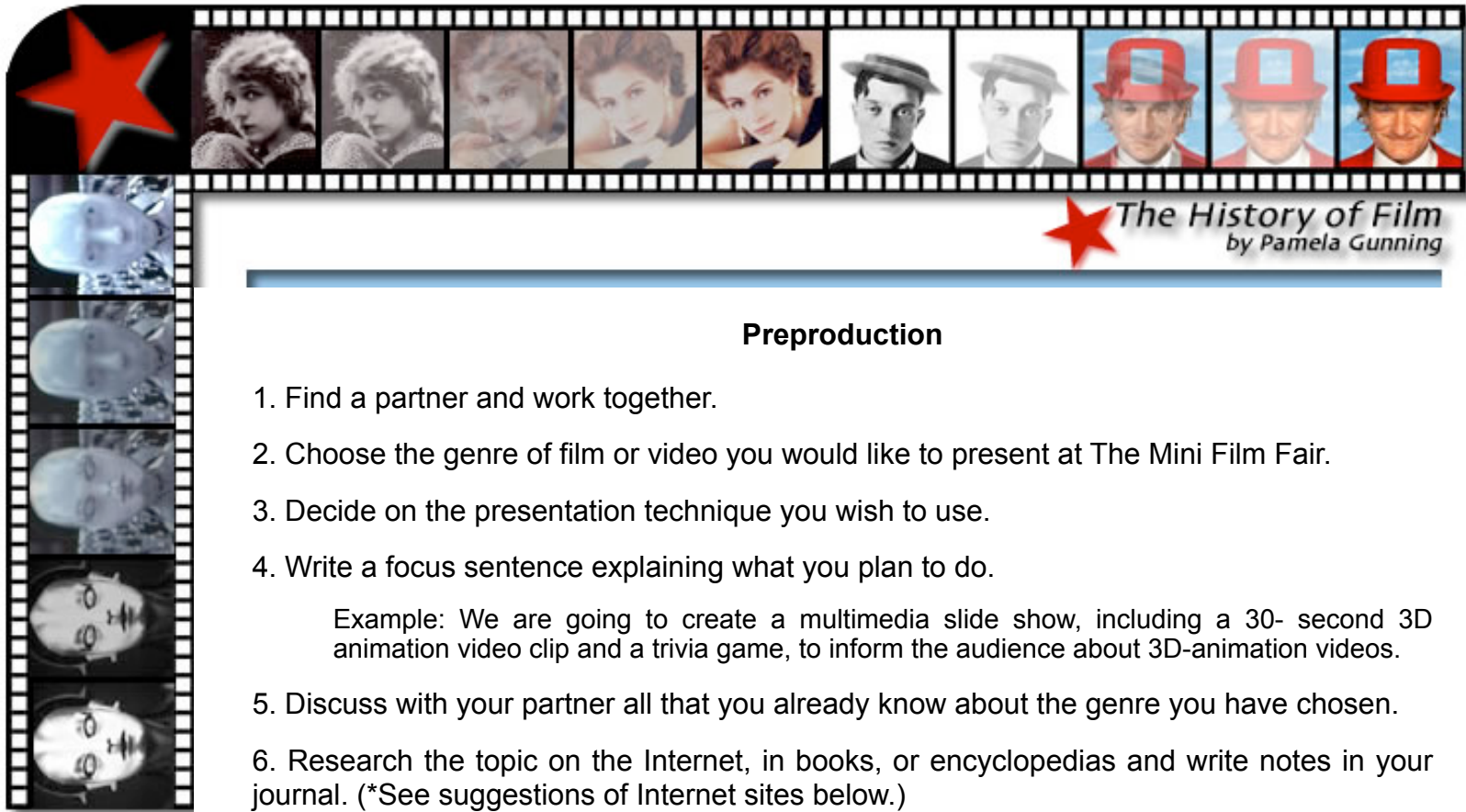   - Commercial/Promotional

2. Make a mind map to illustrate the characteristics of each genre using a mind mapping software such as Popplet, Mindomo or LucidChart.

   To find out what is a mind map and how to make one, go to
   http://www.mindmapping.com/ or

   http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Mind-Map

3. Explain your mind map to your partners.

Preproduction

1. Find a partner and work together.

2. Choose the genre of film or video you would like to present at The Mini Film Fair.

3. Decide on the presentation technique you wish to use.

4. Write a focus sentence explaining what you plan to do.

> Example: We are going to create a multimedia slide show, including a 30- second 3D animation video clip and a trivia game, to inform the audience about 3D-animation videos.

5. Discuss with your partner all that you already know about the genre you have chosen.

6. Research the topic on the Internet, in books, or encyclopedias and write notes in your journal. (*See suggestions of Internet sites below.)

7. Use a writing process according to the task to plan your presentation and prepare your script.

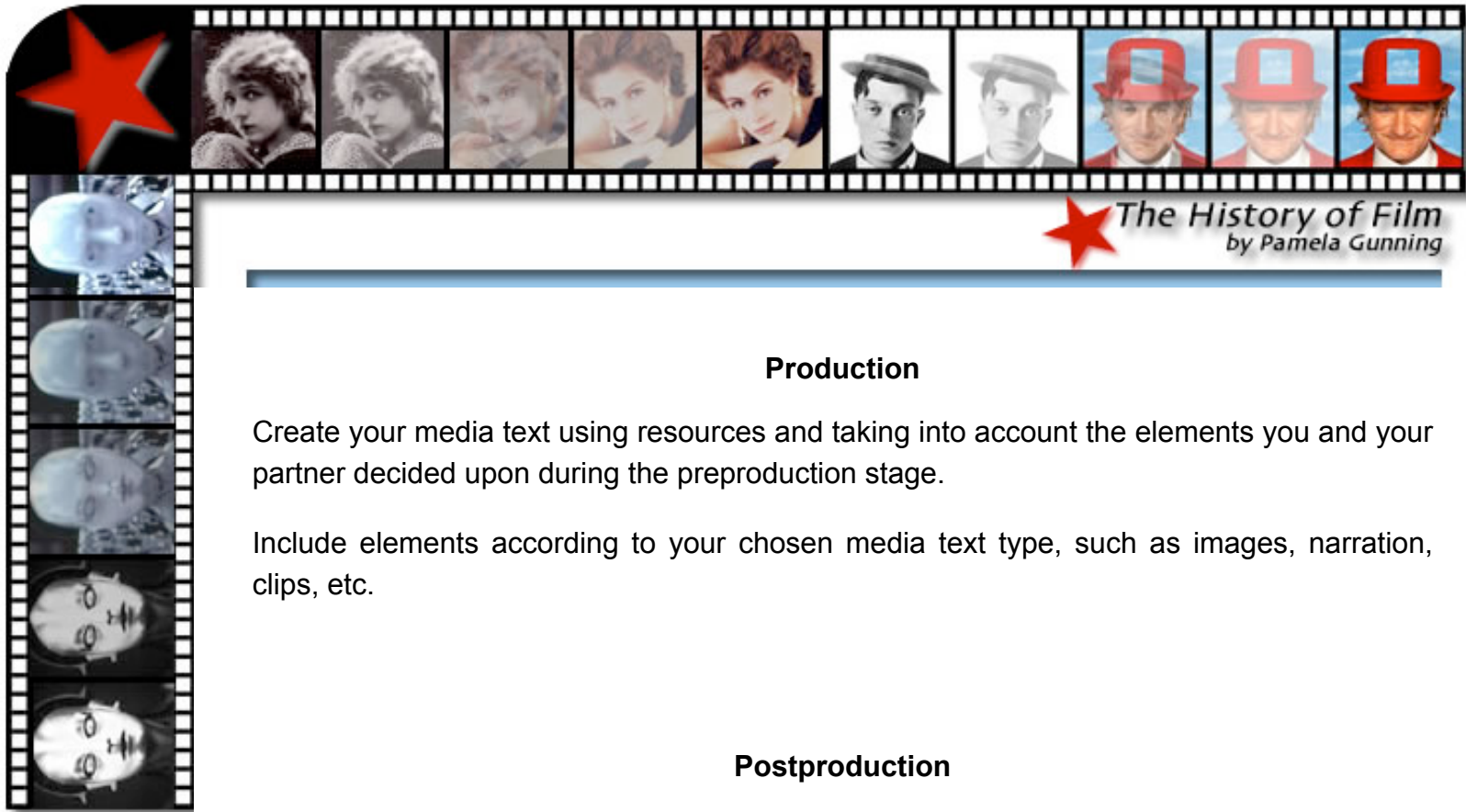8. Create a storyboard (See Worksheet #2) to help you plan your project.

Example:

For a digital video:

- The plan: A storyboard to plan the sequence of events, content, length of the production, roles and responsibilities of each partner, etc.
- Present your storyboard to another pair for feedback.
- The revision: make corrections and/or adjustments; write the first draft of the script; use resources to make corrections to the script.
- The final text: write the final script that the actors will use to make the video.

For a silent movie:

- The plan: A storyboard
- The revision: the first draft of the text narrative and the corrections.
- The final text: the final text narrative that will appear on the screen as the actors mime the action.

Go to
Suggestions for Internet sites regarding
the history of film and sound, and trivia questions

Production

Create your media text using resources and taking into account the elements you and your partner decided upon during the preproduction stage.

Include elements according to your chosen media text type, such as images, narration, clips, etc.

Postproduction

Edit your production.

Present your project to your peers or teacher for feedback.

Make adjustments and add final touches.

Present your media text to the audience at the Mini Film Fair.