



Unit: Daily Life

Lesson 4.1: At the Movies (There's nothing like the silver screen to bring an era to life!)

Aim: To learn about daily life, politics, slavery, the draft, and the war in New York during the Civil War era.

Objective: Students view clips from either Ric Burns's *The Center of the World: New York (1820-1865)* (PBS) or Martin Scorsese's *The Gangs of New York* (Miramax, 2002)* to learn about life during the Civil War era.

*Note: While this hit movie will give students a vivid picture of old New York and its inhabitants, there are many explicit and inappropriate (violent and sexual) scenes, so it cannot be viewed in its entirety.

Materials:

1. VCR
2. One or both of the above-mentioned videos

Procedure:

1. Teacher previews one or both of the above films.
2. Choose clips to share with class highlighting various aspects of daily life.
3. Prepare comprehension and discussion questions in advance.
4. Pause video every few minutes for a question/answer period to facilitate active listening.
5. Students can write responses to the films, sharing their observations and reactions or comparing these images with the New York they know.