

Lights, Camera, Media Literacy!
PBS The American Experience:
BIG DREAM SMALL SCREEN

As you view this documentary about Philo T. Farnsworth, listen closely for the following phrases and statements which are listed in sequential order. When you hear the phrase or statement, place a checkmark next to it.

- 1) "His was the genius that transformed electrons into visual images."
- 2) "He was an American original, brilliant, idealistic, undaunted by obstacles..."
- 3) " inevitable showdown with the corporate juggernaut RCA..."
- 4) "Abraham Lincoln spoke of the importance of protecting and encouraging the fire of genius."
- 5) "While plowing a field in 1921, a 14-year-old named Philo T. Farnsworth began to think about an idea that would change the world."
- 6) "He had a vision in a potato field."
- 7) "Philo was born in a log cabin in Indian Creek, Utah in 1906."
- 8) "Hidden in the attic were stacks of science and radio magazines."
- 9) "As a child his heroes were Edison and Bell."
- 10) "His idea was to have a camera which would focus light onto a light-sensitive surface that would emit a stream of electrons."
- 11) "A rapidly-changing electro-magnetic field would scan the picture line by line. The electrons collected at the end of the camera tube would then form a stream of electric pulses that would be transmitted over the airwaves to an antenna."

__12) "...a Russian émigré had recently arrived in New York. Vladimir Zworykin was well ahead in his plans to produce electronic television and would become a formidable rival."

__13) "Phil started college in Utah , but his education ended at eighteen when his father died. To support his family, he took a job delivering radios..."

__14) "By 1925, Philo was impatient to realize his plans for electronic vision. He described the idea for television to two California businessmen, George Everson and Les Gorrell."

__15) "...their entire life savings go into the story told by this nineteen-year-old boy who transformed himself before their eyes into a visionary."

__16) "The newlyweds left Salt Lake City for Los Angeles in 1926."

__17) "Everything had to be assembled from scratch."

__18) "BANG! Everything went up. The power surge come through just starting the generator up had blown the whole shebang, the tube and everything."

__19) "He was back to square one."

__20) "This time the nineteen-year-old kid would have to dazzle hard-nosed bankers with his electronic vision."

__21) " In a converted second-story loft, he gathered an enthusiastic band of family and friends around him."

__22) "As the ideas poured off the page, the circuits became more and more complex."

__23) "Each day's progress was meticulously recorded. These notebooks would be his only protection when the patent battles began."

__24) "On September 7, 1927, Farnsworth got a signal. The first all-electronic transmission of television was a straight line."

__25) "When news of his triumph broke, Hollywood moguls and movie stars, like Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, flocked to meet the man who might challenge cinema."

__26) "RCS controlled the medium of radio by owning everything, the transmitters, the studios, and the license to build radios. Sarnoff had masterminded this coup by buying off small inventors and ensuring that RCA owned all radio patents."

__27) In the spring of 1930, Sarnoff sent Zworykin to the West Coast to investigate this maverick inventor who could be a threat to RCA."

__28) "...Sarnoff decided to unleash the RCA lawyers, who tried to pretend that Zworykin had demonstrated electronic television before Farnsworth."

__29) "Farnsworth signed a secret deal with a radio company called Philco that wanted to get a head start in television."

__30) "Phil decided to leave Philco and set up on his own again in Philadelphia."

__31) "After over a year of non-stop effort, Phil was ready to stage the first public demonstration of electronic television."

__32) "A year after this sensational demonstration, Farnsworth won his first patent victory against RCA."

__33) "Each brand of television could only receive its own station."

__34) "David Sarnoff was finally ready to unveil television to America. The history books would say that television was born in 1939 at the New York World's Fair."

__35) After seven years of crippling litigation, Farnsworth finally won his case against RCA."

