

Review of 3 films on computers - all at elementary level

The Computer                      Films West                      1969                      11 minutes                      (elem)

very old, very elementary

gives a surface view of what a computer can do, nothing really about how; even the what is only explained in terms of specific applications; no general principles are really developed very well if at all

audio - says computers are used in building construction

visual - a building being built

this combo doesn't help clarify the subject matter too much

longest segment is of buying tickets for a ballgame; just shows tickets being bought and says what computer does in terms of keeping a record of all available seats etc.

Computers                      Lanvic/BFA                      1970                      11 minutes                      (elem)

nice intro - indicates place of computers in development of counting aids (nice because it does try to place subject in some sort of developmental context)

discusses five basic components (input, cpu, etc) - narration relatively well-illustrated via graphics; although again this is pretty superficial and there is little sense of how

at the end there is lots of "This is what computers can do" pictures of oil refinery, airplanes etc.

Computers and You                      Journal Films                      1972                      15 minutes

good use of analogy with people (what our input is - ie 5 senses)

good shot of how machine reads cards

good shot of flowcharting which explains that computer must be told what to do when

good bit of kid punching questions into terminal - not only show how it is done but good way to motivate attention to questions