

Lesson 1: What can we watch?

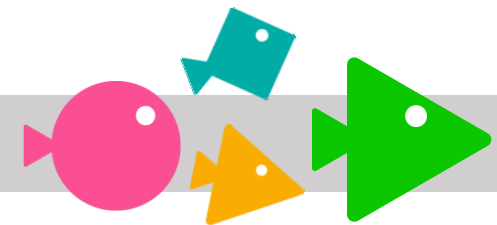
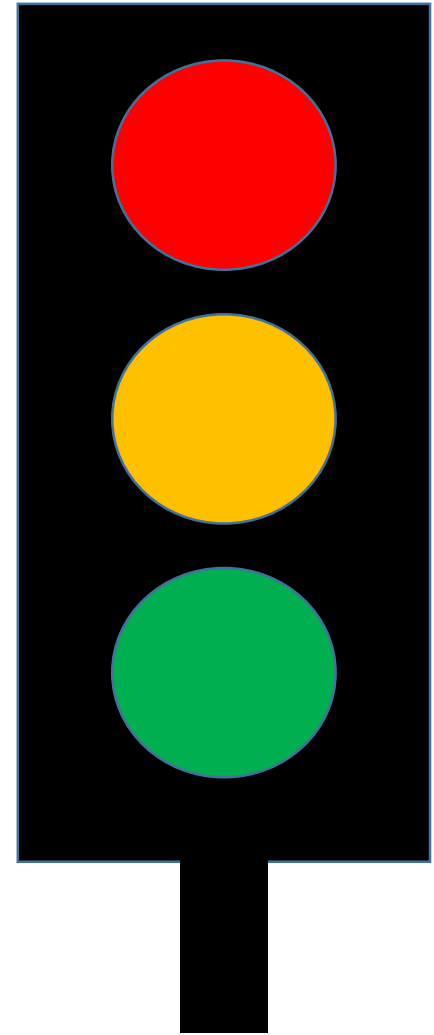


Why do we have traffic lights?
Do you know what the colours mean?

Red means stop – it's not safe to go yet.

Amber means get ready - the lights are going to change.

Green means go – it's safe to continue.

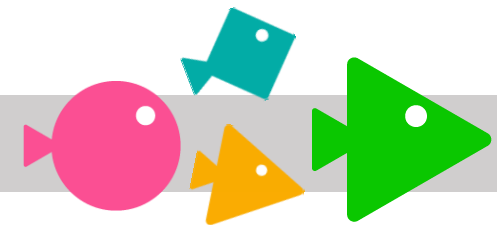


Look at this road sign. It is telling drivers that it isn't safe for them to drive at more than 30 miles per hour in this area. That's also the law.

In this lesson, you will learn about different film and video game classifications set out by an organisation called BBFC (British Board of Film Classification).



Like this road sign, film and game classifications are there, by law, to protect you.

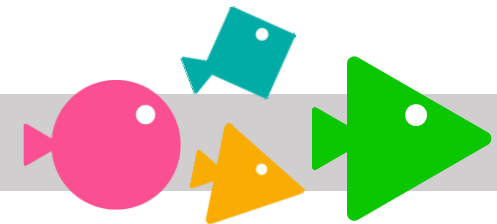


The role of the BBFC

Lots of children and families love watching films and playing video games. But some have things in them that can make children feel worried, confused or uncomfortable. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) wants children to feel happy when they watch a film or play a game, so they check what is in them first.



The BBFC was set up in 1912 and has been providing age ratings for films for over 100 years. Part of the role of the BBFC is to listen to what children, parents, carers and teachers think, and look at how families really decide what to watch. Research projects with children and parents are carried out across the country and the information gathered is used to make sure the advice is accurate.

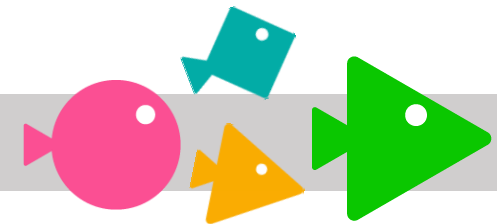
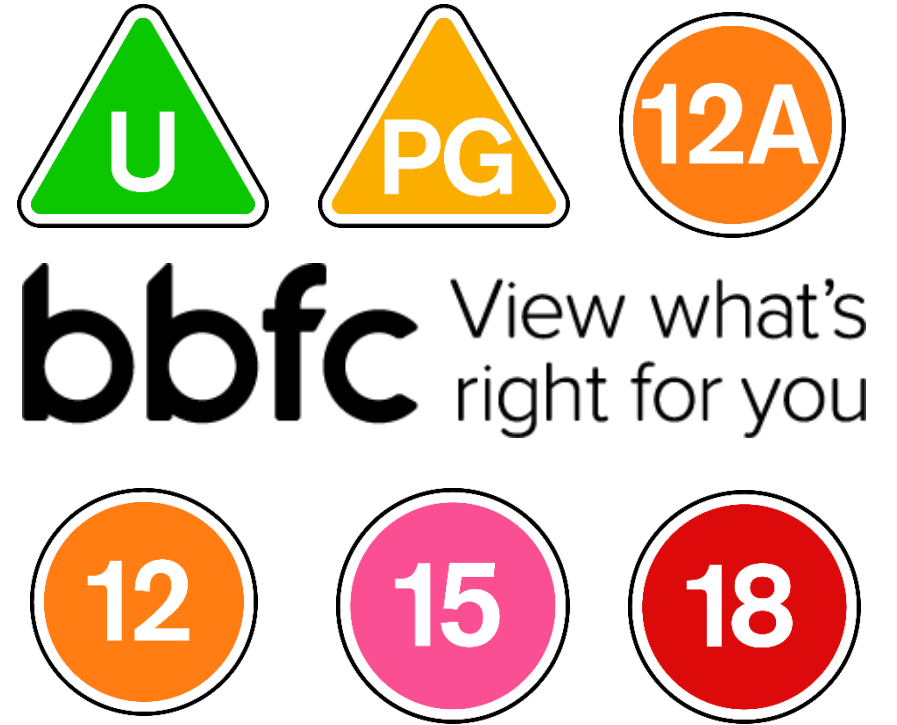


The BBFC age ratings

The BBFC uses age ratings and symbols and provides explanations about films, games, and some films and series viewed online.

This helps children and their parents decide what to watch, or what might not be suitable.

For the same reason, the BBFC also helps to block some things online using parental controls, and make sure that some companies stop children under 18 using their websites.



Look at the information about the age groups for film classification.

Why do you think they chose these age groups?

Why are they important?



For everyone (universal) - should be suitable for children aged four years and over



Suitable for most people (but some scenes might not be suitable for younger children and might be a bit upsetting for some children) - parents and carers should check the film first)



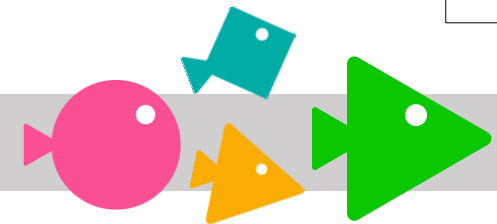
For 12 year olds and over
Under 12s can watch 12A films if accompanied by an adult at the cinema. There might be some violence and scary scenes, but these aren't usually very gory or realistic.



For 15 year olds and over.
Films in this group might contain realistic violence and swearing.



For adults only. These films might be very violent, scary and upsetting, even if they feature cartoon or comic book characters.



Think about what you've learned about age classifications.
Which age rating would you suggest for the following:

- Joe is 12 and is looking for a film to watch with his younger brother, Fin. Fin is four years old.
- Sabine is 8 years old. She likes stories about animals and prefers stories that have happy endings.
- Hayley is 11. She likes watching scary films with her family. She loves it when they make her jump and everybody screams.
- A teacher is choosing a film for his class of 7-8 year olds to watch at the end of term.
- Alex and Sam's mum does not let them watch violent films or films with bad language. Alex is 13 and Sam is 9 years old.

