TAMPA ANIMATION FESTIVAL

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN · TAKE-HOME GUIDE

Make Your Own Stop-Motion Movie!

All you need is an iPad or phone, a toy, and some patience.



BEFORE YOU START: GET THE APP

Stop Motion Studio FREE

For **iPad, iPhone, Android and Chromebook.** Get it from the **App Store** or **Google Play** (made by **Cateater**).

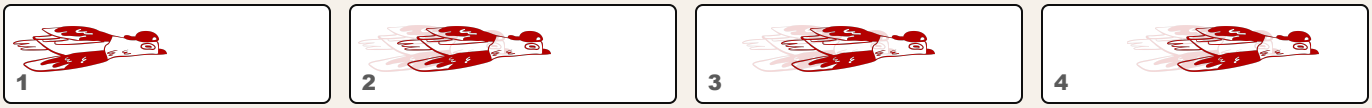
Ask a grown-up before you download any app.

WHAT YOU NEED

- ☐ **An iPad or phone** with the app
- ☐ **A star for your movie:** LEGO, clay, action figures, paper cut-outs or even cereal
- ☐ **A steady spot** for your device. Lean it on a stack of books or tape it down.
- ☐ **Good light:** a lamp works best. Sunlight changes as clouds move, and that makes your movie flicker.

How it works: take a picture, move your star a tiny bit, take another picture. Play them fast and your star comes alive! Each picture is called a **frame**. Animators often use **12 frames for every second** of movie. That's called the **frame rate**.





1 Plan a 5-second story

What does your character want, and what gets in the way? At 12 frames per second, that's 60 frames. That's real work!

2 Set up your stage

Open the app and start a **New Movie**. Keep your iPad or phone in the same spot the whole time.

3 Capture a frame

Tap the capture button once. Keep your hands out of the frame.

4 Move it a little

Nudge your star just a tiny bit. **Onion skin** shows a faint "ghost" of your last frame, so you can see how far you moved.

5 Repeat, repeat, repeat

Capture, move, capture, move. Small moves look smooth. Big moves look fast and jumpy.

6 Press play and reflect

What worked? What would you change next time? Then share your movie with your family.

ANIMATOR TIPS

- Glue or tape down anything that won't move. Your animation will look so much better! *(Brad Schiff, LAIKA)*
- Too fast? Take 2 frames of each move. Animators call this **shooting on twos**.
- Before a big jump, make your star crouch down first. Animators call this **anticipation**. It makes movement feel alive.
- Mistake? Delete that frame and try again.

STORYBOARD YOUR MOVIE

Animators sketch their story first. This is called a **storyboard**.

Beginning	Middle	End

Ideas to try: a toy that tries to climb a stack of books · your name spelled by letters that walk in · a bird that flies away.

Come see animated movies at the Tampa Animation Festival!

Every November at the University of Tampa, with free screenings of cartoons and stop-motion films from around the world. Next festival: **November 4–7, 2027**.

tampaanimationfestival.com · Gregg Perkins, Festival Director
Professor of Film, Animation and New Media, University of Tampa

SCAN ME