

# Summer STEAM Kit #4: Claymation Movie



Brought to you by **Salmon Public Library**. Find video instructions and our example claymation video on our website, Facebook page or Youtube channel!

Have you ever wondered how movies like *Coraline* or *James and the Giant Peach* were made? These films are really made up of tens of thousands of pictures of clay objects, moved a little bit at a time. The photos are put together and played back rapidly, making it appear like the objects are moving. With a little help from an app, you can use this same technique to make your own movies with play-doh!

**Attention:** You will need access to a smartphone or tablet to complete this activity. If you don't have one of these devices at home, you can visit the library's "Claymation Studio," which will be set up with everything you need. Give us a call or stop by the front desk to set up a time!

## Step One: Download the App "Stop Motion Studio"



In the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Play Store (Android), search for "Stop Motion Studio." Be sure to select the free version: look for the blue icon with the video camera. You can choose to enable in-app purchases to add special features to your movie; however **it is not necessary to purchase anything** to make a simple stop-motion film.

Once you've installed the app, watch the example video "Big Fish" to give you an idea of what you can make with this program (remember, features like music and text cost extra). For play-doh-specific examples, search "stop motion play-doh" on Youtube or check out our demo video at [salmonlibrary.org/summer-reading-instructional-videos](http://salmonlibrary.org/summer-reading-instructional-videos).

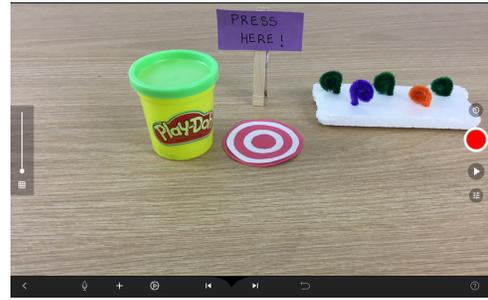
## Step Two: Plan Your Movie

Use the included Storyboard Template to plan out your claymation film. Use the big boxes to doodle what will happen and write notes for yourself in the smaller boxes underneath. Keep the plot simple, with one main task or event for your "characters."

Be creative with the materials you use in your film. You can use the play-doh and pipe cleaners we provided to sculpt characters and props, but you should also feel free to incorporate other objects, such as toys, construction paper, cardboard, kitchen objects, craft supplies, etc. **Tip:** If you want to show text or speech (for free), you can write on a piece of paper and hold it up in front of the camera using a pencil or popsicle stick.

### Step Three: Set Up Your Studio

The key to a successful stop motion film is to keep your camera in the same place while you take all the pictures. Use a phone/tablet stand, make your own stand or simply try wedging or taping your device in place.



Next, set up a backdrop for your movie. You can use a shoe box, piece of cardboard, poster board, fabric or simply a blank wall. Open up the Stop Motion Studio App and tap the + symbol to add a new movie. Put your device in place and check what you can see with the camera. This is your "frame." Adjust the position of your camera until you are happy with the frame. Ideally, you should be able to see your objects and backdrop clearly without it seeming crowded. Remember, you won't be able to move the camera once you start taking pictures, so think about how the whole movie is going to play out.

Once you've finalized the position of the camera, tape any objects that *won't* be moving in place, and set things up for your first scene.

### Step Four: Make Your Movie!

Tap the red capture button to take your first picture. (Depending on your version of the app, you may have to tap the camera icon first.) The photo you took should now appear in the frame timeline at the bottom of your screen (you may need to press back first). Select the photo to view it. If you're not happy with it, you can always delete it by tapping again and selecting the "delete" option.

Now, make a small change in the scene and take your next photo. We mean **small!** Check out the series of photos below to see how the play-doh ball moves across the screen. We used five pictures to show just a couple inches of movement.



Your goal should be to capture **80-100 pictures** for a 10-15 second film. Once all your pictures are taken, set the speed of your movie by tapping on ⚙️. Experiment with different speeds to see which you like best. You can also "pause" individual frames to make them stay on the screen longer. Press Play to view your video.

### Share Your Movie!

To export (save) your video to your device, go back to the home screen, press and hold your project and tap the share button that appears at the top. Post your movie online and send us a link at [salmonlibrary1@gmail.com](mailto:salmonlibrary1@gmail.com), or come in and show us your masterpiece to earn a bonus ticket for the Summer Reading Raffle!