

Goldie at Home Activity: Animated History

Activity Overview: Did you know that animated movies were created and shown to audiences over 100 years ago? That's a whole lot of drawings! This week's activity is all about the movies, and you'll get to become the animator and lay out a story about Iowa history using a storyboard.

Although the technology to create animated films has changed, the stories they tell are still very important. Filmmakers plan each shot to make sure the story is being told correctly through storyboarding. What story from Iowa's past will you choose to tell through a storyboard this week? Once you have created your own storyboard, learn more about Iowa's role in movie history by visiting the museum's [Hollywood in the Heartland exhibit](#), and check out the [Goldie's Movie Recommendations With an Iowa Connection](#) for your next movie night.

What is a Storyboard?

A storyboard is a visual outline of a film. It is an important part of the planning process before a movie begins and consists of a series of images that show everything that is going to happen in the finished movie, such as the beginning, ending and action, along with the plot.

Connection to Iowa History

Iowa has been home to many creative people that have helped make many of the movies you might watch today. Here are a few Iowans that have focused their careers on animation:

Victor Animation Company: Alexander F. Victor founded the Victor Animation Company in Davenport in 1910. He developed one of the first 16 mm motion picture projectors and slide projectors capable of displaying images from glass slides. The company thrived through the 1920s into the 1950s.

Don Hall: Don Hall was born in Glenwood, Iowa, in 1969. He is a director, writer and voice actor at Walt Disney Animation Studios. In 2015, he won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film for directing "Big Hero 6."

Ron Clements: Ron Clements was born in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1953. He is an animator, director, screenwriter and producer for Walt Disney Animation. He has been nominated for three Oscars in 2003, 2010 and 2017 for Best Animated Feature Film.



Instructions

- 1 **Get Inspired.** Choose your Iowa history story you want to share. Use the suggestions on pg. 2 to brainstorm ideas.
- 2 **Plan Your Story.** When creating your storyboard, you can either tell a larger story or only one smaller scene. If highlighting a larger story, like the life of a famous Iowan, focus on key parts of the larger story in the storyboard. If you are storyboarding one scene of Iowa history, make sure to include the beginning, ending and any action that may occur.
- 3 **Story Layout.** On the provided worksheet, use the space beneath each box to write the action in the scene.

Materials

- Worksheet
- Pencil, pen, colored pencils or markers to create your storyboard

Instructions continued on the next page

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Instructions continued

- 4 **Draw the Story.** You don't have to be an artist to draw your story. Even if you use stick figures, take your time to draw the action in each box. You can indicate movement or action with an arrow.
- 5 **Make Edits.** After finishing your storyboard, share with someone to see if they can follow your story from beginning to end. Update and revise your storyboard with their thoughts or suggestions.
- 6 **Share!** If you would like to share your Iowa history storyboard with the State Historical Museum of Iowa, please email photos to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with other young historians!
- 7 **Group Activity:** If you would like to work as a group, start with one person drawing a scene in the first box. Then, without telling the next person the story they had in mind, have them look at the first scene. They will then draw what they think will happen in the second box. This can go back and forth until the story has finished. Who knows where that story might lead?
- 8 **Questions to Spark Learning**
 - How do you think people reacted when they saw their first animated films over 100 years ago? Why?
 - Do you think animation is a good way to tell a story to people? Why or why not?
 - If you had to create an animated movie about Iowa, what would you highlight? Is it a person, place or something else? Why?



Storyboard Topic Ideas about Iowa History

- [Kate Shelley](#)
- [Edna Griffin](#)
- [Peggy Whitson](#)
- [Alexander Clark](#)
- [Norman Borlaug](#)
- [Grant Wood](#)
- [The Goldfinch Archive](#)
- [Previous Goldie at Home Activities](#)
- [State Historical Society of Iowa Flickr](#)

Animated History Worksheet



Use the empty squares below to draw your storyboard.

Storyboard Title:

Iowa History Topic:

Scene 1

Action:

Dialogue:

Scene 2

Action:

Dialogue:

Scene 3

Action:

Dialogue:

Scene 4

Action:

Dialogue:

Animated History Worksheet



Scene 5

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Action:

Dialogue:

Scene 6

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Action:

Dialogue:

Scene 7

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Action:

Dialogue:

Scene 8

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Action:

Dialogue: