



BrainPOP Featured Movie

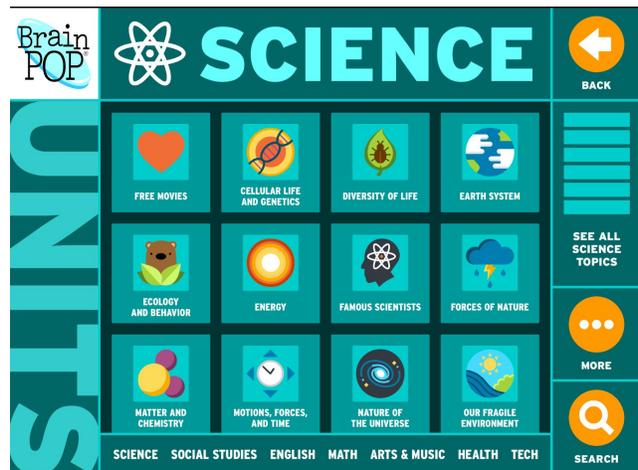
BrainPOP Featured Movie app offers cross-curricular animated movies and interactive quizzes for students in grades 3+. Its topics span Science, Social Studies, English, Math, Engineering & Tech, Health, and Arts & Music.

The application is free to download and has a limited free content in each subject area. The free Featured Movie topics rotate daily and tie into current events, historical milestones and figures, and holidays. Three more movies on various subjects are also included. Each movie is four to six minutes long. The movie is paired with an interactive quiz so kids can test their new knowledge. All movies are close captioned, making it easy for students to read along and learn new vocabulary.

Most movies are hosted by a teenager named Tim and his sidekick, a robot called Moby. Together, they explore real-life topics that tie into educational subjects. Examples range from a look at how banks compound interest, how readers can identify the main idea in an English essay to how governments regulate organic labels.

In addition to the basic “BrainPOP Featured Movie” app, two premium versions offer extra content and interactive options. Both are fee-based and require an in-app subscription.

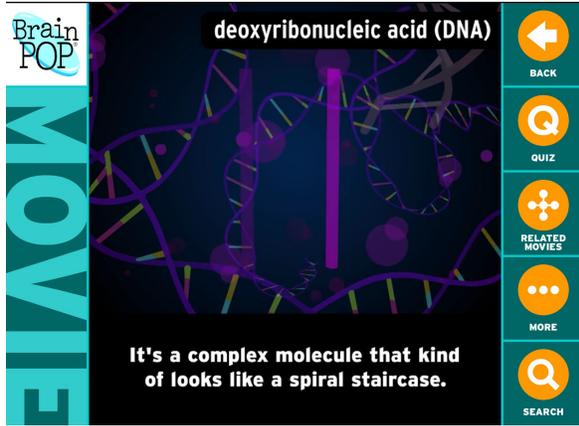
- *Explorer*. Students can watch four additional movies that expand on content covered in the featured movie.



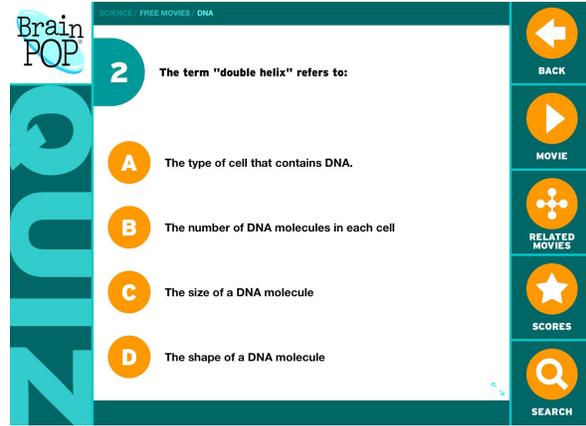
Source: BrainPOP App

Interactive quiz results are saved and displayed by highest, lowest and average scores. (\$2.99 per month)

- *Full Access.* This version includes the daily featured movie and quiz, but also offers unlimited access to the BrainPOP archive of more than 750 movies and quizzes, along with educational games and activity pages. (\$6.99 per month)



Source: BrainPOP App



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ENGAGING INTRODUCTION



BrainPOP is a great way to introduce a new topic or concept and get kids engaged. To set students up for active viewing, it is recommended to pause the movies and engage students when a new vocabulary word is introduced, paraphrase what just happened, or make a prediction.

TAKE THE QUIZ FIRST



Allowing the students to occasionally take the quiz before watching the movie will call attention to main ideas and important details that are covered.

PAUSE POINTS



Stop the movie after the student letter is read by Tim and have students share what they already know about the topic. You can also pause the movie later if a question is raised, or if an issue excites interest. When Moby thinks, he makes a “Beep!” sound, in most cases this is a signal for the teacher to pause a movie and ask students what they think.

IMPROMPTU INSTRUCTION



In addition to integrating BrainPOP into lesson plans, it can also be used during the transition between different tasks transforming them into teachable moments. It is also a great way to introduce a new topic or cover a current event.

DESTRESS TEST PREP



BrainPOP and its quizzes can also be used as a review tool. All BrainPOP topics and activities meet individual state and Common Core standards. The movies and quizzes can take some of the stress out of test prep.

ROTATION STATION



In case of limited technology in the classroom, choose a movie each week and set up a device rotation schedule so that each student has a chance throughout the week to complete the movie and related quiz or activities. For those classrooms with no computers, show the quiz at the front of the room on the whiteboard. Put the students in teams to discuss their answers then each team gives their response and explanation either verbally or written on a whiteboard.

PAIR SHARE



Using inexpensive headphone splitters two partners can watch a BrainPOP movie together and then work as a team to answer the questions. Encouraging them to discuss or write about what they learned together will foster collaboration in the classroom.



- With the BrainPOP app, the learning transfers from whole-group to the individual.
- The layout of the app is intuitive and has lots of graphical elements.
- Students can take ownership of their learning using the app and even quiz themselves with the app.
- The content is organized by subject area first, and then organized again into topics. It makes it super easy for the students to navigate to what they want to learn.
- The videos included are in kid-friendly language, and the examples given by Tim and Moby are age appropriate as well.
- Students should also relate well to the young animated hosts who speak directly to students. These characters use conversational and familiar language. And they use humor, which is sure to engage.
- Characters narrate what's happening, ask questions, and define terms that may be difficult to grasp. This varied approach to teaching will likely suit many types of learners.



- All quizzes have only multiple choice questions. I wish that the quiz questions had different styles to foster critical thinking.
- The app does give worksheets as well, but it is sometimes tricky to print out from iPad. This will probably be addressed in the future app updates.
- At times the information in the videos is not as specific as may be needed but that can easily be supplemented with outside information to provide deeper learning opportunities.
- Although the app is free to download, full access to all content requires a paid subscription.

Other BrainPOP websites and apps include:



BrainPOP Jr. for K-3 students (<https://jr.brainpop.com>) features adapted content to elementary students. The movies have a bold, colorful graphics and punchy music.



BrainPOP ELL (<https://ell.brainpop.com>) features games, activities, and animated movies designed for ELL students, from beginner to advanced. The site provides a grammar progression and focuses on reading, writing, vocabulary building, listening, and speaking.



BrainPOP Français (<https://fr.brainpop.com>) is an ideal resource for teachers, students in the French immersion. It covers the same core subject areas, and all the movies are not simply translated into French but adapted for language learners..



BrainPOP Español (<https://esp.brainpop.com>) has videos and quizzes in all core areas in Spanish.

Bibliography

BrainPOP Featured Movie [Version 3.1.9, iOS application]. BrainPop.

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