

The Flipbook Show

From a tiny idea to a little paper masterpiece
an illustrated guide for primary school teachers



cineografo.com

Ages 7–10 · Duration 2–3 hours · 4 guided steps

Dear teacher,

this PDF is a little gift: a ready-to-use lesson plan to bring into your classroom and create a 10–12 second short film with your pupils, then turn it into a **flipbook** — a little book that, when flipped through quickly, comes to life like a cartoon.



The project unfolds in **four steps**: first you invent a story and sketch it out as a storyboard, then you film the scene with a regular smartphone, then you upload it to Cineografo which returns a printable flipbook, and finally you assemble it in class. That's it — simple, fun, and remarkably educational.

What children learn

- Imagining a story and breaking it into a sequence (narrative skills)
- Working as a team, sharing roles — director, actors, writers
- Using technology creatively, not just as passive consumers
- Combining the digital with hands-on work: scissors, paper, stapler

What you need

- A smartphone (one per group is enough)
- A4 paper and a printer
- Scissors, a stapler or clothespins
- A willingness to have fun

How long it takes

Between 2 and 3 hours total, which can be spread across several days:
1h for ideas and filming, 1h for printing and assembling, 30 minutes for the final presentation.

Step 1

Inventing the story



The most important part happens now, **before anyone picks up a smartphone**. Children need to invent a tiny story that lasts no more than ten seconds: a small event, a small surprise, a gesture that tells something. Just a few seconds — but a real little work of art.

Divide the class into **groups of 3 or 4**. Each group gets a sheet of paper divided into 6 boxes: this is the **storyboard**. In each box, they sketch a moment of the story. Six panels work nicely: two for the beginning, two for the middle, two for the end.

Teaching tip

Spark their imagination by starting with a word: «*a dinosaur that...*», «*a ball that...*», «*a sun that...*». The word triggers the story, and everything falls into place.

Examples of short stories that work well:

- A flower growing super fast from a seed
- A ball rolling and scoring a goal
- A door opening to reveal a dinosaur
- A drawing coming to life and waving hello

Step 2

Action!



Once the storyboard is ready, it's time for the fun part: filming. Any smartphone will do. The secret is simple: **the phone must stay still**. A pile of books makes an excellent improvised tripod.

Always film in **landscape mode** (phone held sideways). Record 10–12 seconds, no more: a flipbook is short by nature and a compact story works better than a long one.

Tips for a successful shot

- **Hold the phone still, always.** If it shakes, the flipbook shakes too.
- **Plenty of light** — natural light from a window beats artificial light.
- **One single shot.** No zooming, no panning, no camera moves.
- **One take.** If it doesn't work, start over. Often the third attempt is the magical one.

An idea that always works

Let the children play real film-set roles: one filming, others acting, one holding the clapperboard, one calling «lights, camera, action!». They'll feel like real directors — and that's exactly what makes the project unforgettable.

Step 3

The Cineografo magic



Now the video needs to become a flippable booklet. This is where **Cineografo** comes in. The website cineografo.com takes your video and turns it into a sequence of frames ready to print. It's a very simple step that you can do in front of the class — make it part of the show.

The three steps

1. Go to cineografo.com and click on the **App** section.
2. Upload the 10–12 second video you've just filmed.
3. Leave your email, complete the order, and the flipbook PDF will arrive in your inbox within a few minutes.

While you wait for the email

This is the perfect moment to set up step 4: lay out scissors, paper ready for each child, staplers or clothespins. When the PDF arrives, printing will be quick and you can dive straight into the hands-on part.

Step 4

Print and assemble



Print the PDF on the school's regular printer. Each A4 sheet contains several numbered frames: children **cut** along the lines and **arrange the pieces in order**, following the numbers. It's an activity that pulls them in completely.

When the frames are in the right order and neatly stacked, it's time to **bind them**. There are several options — pick the one that suits the age of your pupils best.

Binding options

- **Stapler** — quick and sturdy, works for everyone
- **Clothespin** — no sharp parts, perfect for the youngest
- **Glue stick** on the left edge — neatest look, takes patience

Teaching tip

The order of the frames is the most important check of the whole project. Encourage children to verify it **in pairs** before binding — a cross-check, just like real printers do.

The class show



When all the flipbooks are ready, the best moment arrives: **the show**. Gather the children in a circle and let each child present their own short film by flipping through the pages in front of the others.

Setting up a small «**flipbook show**» with a poster in the classroom — and leaving it up for a few days — closes the project in a memorable way. Consider filming the presentations: you'll have a souvenir of the workshop that families will treasure.

A flipbook, after all, is made to be shown and to make whoever picks it up smile.

Bonus idea

Flipbooks make ready-made gifts. Let each child take their own home: grandparents, parents and siblings will be thinking about it for days. It's also a wonderful way for the rest of the school community to discover the project.

Bringing it back through the year



Once the class has the method, the flipbook becomes a small recurring teaching tool. Here are some ideas for reusing it across the school year:

Seasonal ideas

- **Christmas** — a short festive film as a gift for parents instead of a card
- **Mother's and Father's Day** — a small personalised gift from each child
- **School trip** — a flipbook mini-report instead of a written one
- **History or science** — an experiment or a historical event told in 10 seconds
- **End of year** — a class farewell as a keepsake for every pupil

Create your flipbook at

[cineografo.com](https://www.cineografo.com)

Enjoy the project — and have fun.