

Turn a Disney Movie into a Lesson

5 Easy Ways to Learn with Any Disney Film

A simple, magical way to turn screen time into story-based learning

Why It Works:

Stories stick. When kids emotionally connect with a story, they remember it, and that makes it the perfect springboard for learning. This guide helps you turn their favorite Disney movies into mini-unit studies or meaningful discussions that fit into your homeschool routine (or weekend movie nights!).

Character Connections (Literacy + SEL)

Ask:

- Who was your favorite character and why?
- Did the character change from the beginning to the end?
- What did they learn, and how did they grow?

Try this:

- Draw your own version of the character and write a few words (or sentences depending on age) to describe them.
- Create a character feelings chart: what emotions did they feel and when?

Map the Magic (Geography + Culture)

Ask:

- Where do you think this story takes place?
- What clues do you see in the buildings, clothes, food, or music?

Try this:

- Look up the country or culture that inspired the movie (Colombia for Encanto, Polynesia for Moana, etc.)
- Find it on a map and list 3 fun facts about it.
- Try a recipe, craft, or song from that culture!

Science Spark (STEM)

Ask:

- What part of the story had something magical or strange, could we explain it with science?
- Did nature, weather, animals, or inventions play a role?

Try this:

- Build a STEM activity around the theme (e.g., boat buoyancy with Moana, circuits like in Big Hero 6)



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- Nature walk: observe things like in the movie (Bambi or The Lion King)
- Start a simple experiment and ask, “Would this happen in real life?”

Art & Music Exploration

Ask:

- How did the colors, music, or animation make you feel?
- Did you notice patterns, rhythms, or repeated designs?

Try this:

- Recreate a scene using paint, chalk, or clay
- Learn a song from the film and perform it
- Create your own version of the movie poster

Big Questions (Critical Thinking + Family Bonding)

Ask:

- What was the big problem in the story?
- What would you have done in that situation?
- What lesson do you think the story was trying to teach?

Try this:

- Write a new ending to the story
- Role-play a conversation between two characters
- Journal: “This movie made me think about...”

Bonus Tips:

- Want to take it even further? Watch the behind-the-scenes clips on Disney+ for creative careers, history, and process learning.
- Use this guide again and again, it works for nearly every Disney, Pixar, or even DreamWorks movie!
- If you want pre-made fully-built out Units for each movie check out our Unit Study books in our [shop](#).



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