

Stop Motion Animation

Best for Ages

6+

Workspace

Flat indoor surface

Is electricity required?

Yes

Description

Stop Motion is a type of animation in which objects are photographed in a series of slightly different positions and when played back the objects give the appearance of movement.

Materials

- Stop motion animation app or software
- Smart phone or laptop with camera function
- Props: figurines, small toys, or make your own using craft foam, construction paper, card stock, scissors, glue, markers or crayons
- Backdrop: draw scenery on large sheet of paper, picture from magazine, patterned tablecloth or material, placemat

What to Do

1. Think about what story you want to tell in your animation. For example a story about space, far away lands, your favorite place to visit, etc. Once you have decided, gather or make the props and backgrounds you need to tell that story.
2. Next, set up your camera and open the stop motion app or software you have chosen. Lay down the background, if you are using one. Familiarize yourself with the editing tools and keys on your app that are used to create your animation.
3. Now place your prop in front of the camera and take a picture. Then move the prop a tiny bit and take another picture. Repeat this process for the entire animation. The best animations result when you make small movements with objects and take lots of pictures.
4. When you are ready to watch your animation, press the playback key.
5. Adjust the playback speed or insert more frames as needed.
6. Share your animation with others!



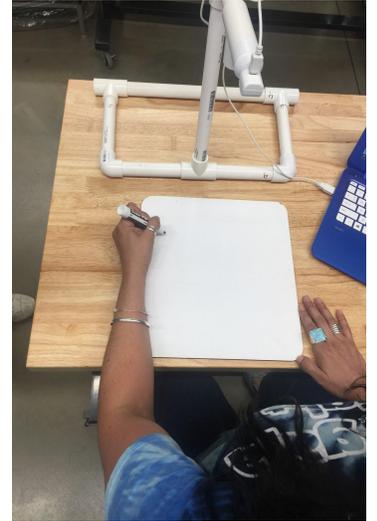
Concepts Explored

- Storytelling
- Experimentation

Stop Motion Animation

Troubleshooting Tips

- Lighting is important. Adjust the lighting on your animation by setting up by a sunny window or use a lamp. Make sure there isn't a glare or shadows from the lighting.
- Tripods are helpful but not necessary. You can easily construct a stand for your camera using household items.
- Adjust the frames per second to enhance your animation.
- Accidentally get your hand in the frame? Most apps have a delete function so you can remove one frame without recreating the entire animation.



Test out different props. 3D objects (clay or toys) vs. 2D (drawn)

What can you do to take your animation to the next level?

What are your favorite editing tools and why?

What is Happening?

- **Storytelling** is a creative form of expression. It encourages reading and purposeful talking. Stories create a sense of wonder at the world we live in and beyond.
- Stop motion animation requires a lot of **experimentation** through trying and testing. This is an important way to build resilience and patience. When the test or attempt doesn't go as planned, you have the chance to learn from it and improve next time. When kids are given the opportunity to struggle, you allow them to develop important social and emotional skills.

Taking it Forward

- Think about ways you can use your new skill. Make an animation for family or friends you can't be with right now. Teach your new skill to others that might not have had this experience. Check out other resources that will introduce you to more advanced programs.
- **If you like this activity you may also like these [Amazeum You](#) activities:**

Flip Book

Green Screen