

LESSON PLAN 49 : CREATE A STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

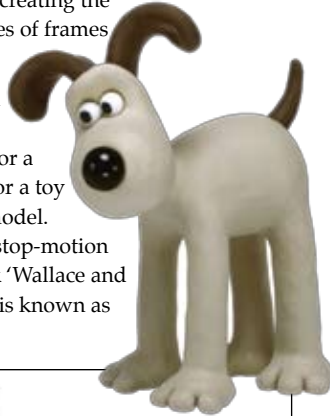
Objective: Learn how to combine technology with story-telling

Age range: 7-14

WHAT IS A STOP-MOTION ANIMATION?

Stop-motion (aka stop-action or frame-by-frame) is an animation technique used to make a physically manipulated object appear to move on its own. The object is moved in small increments between individually photographed frames, creating the illusion of movement when the series of frames is played as a continuous sequence.

The technique can be used to record the movement of almost anything, from something as simple as a coin or a paperclip, through a hand, photos, or a toy action figure, to the assembly of a model. Sometimes clay figures are used in stop-motion for their ease of repositioning (think 'Wallace and Gromit' or 'Shaun the Sheep'). This is known as clay-mation.



THE PEN STORY

This is a fantastic example of stop-motion animation that uses 1,000s of photos to show a man's life story – in just three minutes! Check it out on our website.

YOU WILL NEED

Digital camera (with plenty of memory) or webcam, computer, props, story idea, movie-making software (such as Movie Maker or iMovie). Virtual Dub (www.virtualdub.org) is also a good free, easy-to-use, movie-making program suitable for stop motion.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Story telling, script writing, planning, collaboration, presentation, photography, movie making, video editing.

METHOD

1. Explain the concept of stop-motion animation, the equipment required, and the skills involved. Explore topics for an animation.

2. Think of an idea for your movie and identify the roles students can perform.
3. Plan well. As part of working out the storyline, it's important to the motion effect to have worked out in advance what your figures will be doing.
4. Get objects and figures to use in your movie. Be imaginative in the types of things that might work for you! Create the set and put the items/ characters in place.
5. Set up your camera. Make sure it's secure and steady (use a tripod if possible), and check the frame view is what you want. Also make sure the lighting is appropriate.
6. Take a photo. Begin the movement sequence. Move your item bit by bit - very small movements each time. Keep in mind that the more photos, the smoother the resulting video.
7. Complete the sequence of movements. Save the photos to your computer.
8. Use your movie-making software to create your animation.
9. Share your stop-motion animation.

WATCH THE BASICS

There are plenty of videos available showing the basics of creating stop-motion animations. One we like to the look of is 'How To Make Stop Motion Animations'.



Or if you're planning to use LEGO figures check out How to make Lego stop motion using Windows Movie Maker.

Alternatively, you can explore a collection of movies at '21 Stunning Examples of Creatively Done Stop-Motion Animations'.

All these videos can be accessed on our website: www.interfaceonline.co.nz