



EXPLORING STOP MOTION MAGIC

Have a go at making your own stop-motion animation!

Bring an inanimate object to life with any device with a camera. It's unbelievably easy!

We'll show you the key elements to nail down so you can start creating your own animated wonders.

Get ready to unleash your creativity because once you start, you'll want to animate everything around you.

*Print the activity pages at the end of this document and enjoy the rest on screen!

What you'll need:



A camera (can be a phone, tablet, or digital camera)

2 Pens

Editing software



HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN MAKING YOUR STOP MOTION ANIMATION:

- **Choose Your Story:** Think of a simple story or idea you want to bring to life. It could be as easy as two characters walking across a room.
- **Gather Your Materials:** Grab your camera or smartphone, something to hold your camera, and any props you'll need for your animation. This could include toys, clay figures, or everyday objects.
- **Position Your Characters:** Place your characters or objects in the starting position for your animation. Think about how you want them to move and interact with each other.
- **Start Shooting:** Take a picture of your scene with your camera. Then, move your characters the tiniest bit and take another picture. The smaller the movements, the more realistic it will look. Repeat this process, capturing each movement. It's super important that you avoid bumping or moving the camera, unless you're changing to a different scene in the story
- **Review and Edit:** Once you've taken all your pictures, review them to make sure everything looks good. You can use editing software or apps to put your pictures together into a video. If you want to take your animation to the next level, you can add sound effects or music to bring it up a notch!



TIPS AND EXAMPLES

- Make sure the background in your shots stays still and doesn't change. Even simple things like sunlight or your own shadow can cause distractions in your animation!
- Stop motion animation takes time and patience. Take your time to adjust your characters and props between each shot to create smooth movements.

Or if you want to see how the pros do it, check out these behind-the-scenes clips from some major stop motion animation films.

Chicken Run:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5LrX6fDQz0>

Coraline:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXqgd0ZBEMA>

If you're looking for some inspiration, check out some of our past films!

Dog Island Motu Piu:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeeX3E3X5EI>

E Oho Te Wairua:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjsMXvDOZ8w>

Now, time to try it out yourself!

PART ONE: GET AMONGST! (15-20 MINUTES)

- In your pairs, find two pens. One pen will be the chaser, and the other will be chased. Place them on a desk or flat surface.
- Brainstorm a simple story for your animation. For example, the chasing pen could be trying to catch the other pen, or they could be playing a game of tag.
- Choose a convenient spot with good lighting to set up your camera and arrange the pens on the desk.
- Ready, set, action! Start filming your animation of the pens. The chasing pen should move closer to the other pen in each frame until it catches up.
- Aim for around 20 frames for your animation. Each frame should show a slight movement of the pens.

PART TWO: PUT IT ALL TOGETHER (15 MINUTES)

After filming, load your images into your editing software. Adjust the timing so that each picture is displayed for a short time. Make sure the timing is even between images.

Play back your animation and watch as the pens come to life, chasing each other across the desk!

PART THREE: LET'S DISCUSS (15 MINUTES)

Now it's time to share your pen animations with the rest of the group, and answer these three questions:

- What worked well?
- What's something you would improve on next time?
- Do you have any ideas for creating your own stop motion? What objects would you use?

PART FOUR: EXTRAS FOR EXPERTS! (30 MINUTES)

- For those eager to explore further, it's time to unleash your creativity! Choose your own objects for animation and follow the same instructions as before. However, this time, aim for a longer sequence with at least 40 frames, or feel free to go even further if you're up for the challenge.
- Experiment with different objects and scenarios. Maybe it's a pair of keys dancing across a table, or a toy car driving across the pavement. Let your imagination run wild!
- As you animate, pay attention to the finer details of movement. How can you make your objects come to life in a more dynamic and engaging way?

Remember, the sky's the limit when it comes to stop motion animation. So go ahead, dive in, and create something truly extraordinary!