



Holiday Stop Motion Video

Lights, camera, action! Learn about stop motion animation and make your own holiday-themed stop motion video. Create a story, background, characters, and props for your movie. Then, photograph these objects using the Stop Motion Studio app to bring them to life!

TEKS:

TECH 3-5.1 A: The student is expected to create original products using a variety of resources.

TECH 3-5.2 A: The student is expected to draft, edit, and publish products in different media individually and collaboratively.

TECH 6-8.1 A: The student is expected to identify, create, and use files in various formats such as text, raster and vector graphics, video, and audio files.

TECH 6-8.2 A: The student is expected to participate in personal learning networks to collaborate with peers, experts, or others using digital tools such as blogs, wikis, audio/video communication, or other emerging technologies.

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Markers
- 1-2 pieces of white poster board
- Scissors
- Smartphone or tablet with the Stop Motion Studio app
- Optional: miscellaneous craft supplies (clay, pipe cleaners, glue, beads, crayons, colored pencils, etc.)
- Optional: small tripod or phone/tablet holder

How To:

Part 1: Preparing the characters and setting

1. Decide the holiday story you would like to tell in your stop motion video and sketch out a basic plan for each scene. Start with a simple story to get practice with stop motion animation (only one or two scenes).

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2. Using construction paper, markers, scissors, and other craft supplies, design and create the characters and props needed for your video. Feel free to use toys, figurines, or other household objects as well!
3. Decorate the white poster board to act as the backdrop to your stop motion video (or just leave it plain white). Set the backdrop flat on the ground, lean it against a wall, or use two pieces of poster board in an "L" shape; whatever works best for your film.
4. Set up your holiday scene the way you would like for it to appear at the very beginning of your stop motion video. Now you're ready to start filming!

Part 2: Filming your video

1. Download and open the Stop Motion Studio app on your phone or tablet. Press "New Movie."
2. Tap the camera icon in the upper right corner (make sure that Stop Motion Studio has access to the camera on your phone/tablet).
3. Set your phone/tablet so that the entire holiday scene is visible on the camera screen and mark the location of your phone/tablet with a small piece of tape. NOTE: It is important that the phone is held steady and in the same location during the entire filming process. A small tripod or phone/tablet holder can help with this.
4. Take the first photo of your holiday scene! Then, move a character or prop a *tiny* bit and take another photo of the scene. Repeat this process of moving characters or props *tiny* amounts and snapping photos of the scene until you have told your entire holiday story through the series of photos.

Part 3: Editing your video

1. Once you're done taking photos for your stop motion film, press the arrow in the upper left corner of the screen. This brings you to the editing page.
2. You can delete or edit photos by clicking on each one. Photos can be added by clicking on the photo directly before the location you would like to add a photo to, then clicking on the camera in the top right corner and taking additional photos.
3. To add sound, you can either select a specific photo and click "audio" to add sound effects, or click the microphone icon on the left side of the editing page and record your own sound.
4. View your video as you edit by clicking on the white triangle in the bottom right corner of the editing page. Once you're happy with your film, press the arrow in the upper left corner of the screen and Stop Motion Studio app will automatically save your project. You can now play your finished holiday film and share it with your friends and family!

STEM Explanation:

Animation is a technique used in filmmaking that brings inanimate, or nonliving, objects to life. This can be done through drawings, objects, or even computer programs. Stop motion animation uses objects such as paper cutouts or clay models, and makes them move through a series of photos. Some popular stop motion films you may have seen are *Chicken Run*, *Coraline*, and *Isle of Dogs*. Stop motion animators begin by placing all the objects needed for a scene in their starting positions and taking a photo. Then, the objects are moved very slightly to different positions and another image is taken. This process is repeated many different times (hundreds or even thousands!) until the film is complete. Stop motion films generally use 24 frames per second, or 24 pictures for each second of filming.

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Career Connection:

Stop motion animators use models to create animated films, television shows, and commercials. They create pictures of objects, characters, or scenes that show them in various positions. When these pictures run together the objects appear to be moving on their own!

Resources:

<https://tinkerlab.com/easy-stop-motion-animation-kids/>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-stop-motion-animation-definition-techniques.html>

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