

When Clay and Computers Meet!



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1) Begin with a discussion of How Animation Works

- a) Make a simple Thaumatrope
- b) Make a simple flip book, 1 inch post a notes
- c) Edgar Degas project on movement, Degas was one of the first artists to use one of the first cameras.
- d) Create a storyboard on Paper
- e) Create a slide show using KidPix

2) Gather animation Supplies

- a) The Tech4Learning clay animation Kit,
 - 1) Included in the kit is the Spin Photo Object CR-ROM
 - 2) 5 blocks of clay- red, green, blue, yellow, and white
 - 3) Chenille stems, Styrofoam balls, clay tools, a mat to work on, wiggly eyes, beads, wooden sticks sequins.
- b) Foil, Rolling Pins, Paper, cardboard, Paint, props
- c) If you don't use the kit, gather the same supplies using Plastelene modeling clay, and Windows Movie Maker for windows XP.

3) Plan

There are many tasks to complete before the photos are taken to comprise the movie. Each one of my classes worked in collaborative groups to maximize student skills, participation, and class time.

Group 1 Storyboard

Group 2 Character

Group 3 Character

Group 4 Scenery

Group 5 Props

4) Story

I ask my classroom teachers to write a story. Many wrote class stories with all students contributing. Some picked a story written by an individual student. Some had two or three students collaborate and write a story.

I had 3 rules about the story:

- 1) Limit the number of characters to 2 or 3
- 2) One or two background scenes
- 3) Each story needs a beginning, middle, and an end.

5) Group1 - Create a Storyboard

- a) Underline the characters, determine number, give list to group 2 and 3
- b) Make notes as to scenery, use paint, photos, calendars
- c) Make a list of props, make with clay or collect
- d) Create a storyboard with slides

6) Group 2 and 3, create characters

- a) Create an armature for human figures using chenille stems for the skeleton and a small Styrofoam ball for the head.
- b) Roll clay on foil into thin sheets then cover the body and head.
- c) Cut a Styrofoam ball in half and use as shoes, covered with clay
- d) Use a clay extruder to make hair

The head will be the heaviest, heavy shoes will help your human figure stand.

7) Group 4 Create Scenery

- a) Draw a background, paint, add objects with construction paper or tissue
- b) We found tissue paper easy to work with and stains didn't show as much.
- c) If you don't want to draw or paint, you might use calendars or photos.
- d) We shared backgrounds and props with the 24 classes.

8) Group 5 Create Props

- a) Most objects can be made out of clay
- b) Plastic hands, feet, glasses, or shoes can be used as well. (Mr. Potato Head game)
- c) We used birthday Cake plastic toys
- d) We also needed small nails, thumb tacks and paper clips to attach props to set.
- e) We shared props and characters with the 24 classes.

9) Taking Pictures

To capture a movement, take a picture, move the character slightly, take another picture, move the character again. Continue this process until you have completed a sequence. The number of pictures you take will depend on the complexity of the character's movement.

- 10) You can complete the movie in windows movie maker, before you enter the pictures in movie maker, you need to go to tools, options, and set your duration of slide to .5. This must be done before you import pictures.

11) If you don't use movie maker or Imovie, use the software from Tech 4 learning.

Software: Tech4Learning, Inc.

P.o. Box 16538

San Diego, CA 92176

www.Tech4learning.com

Movie Maker

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker/downloads/moviemaker2.asp>