



STOP MOTION ANIMATION

IDEAL AGE: 4+

Do you have what it takes to be an animator? Follow these steps to create a stop motion masterpiece!

LEARN TOGETHER

Animation helps children practice patience and develops inhibitory control because you can only move your characters a little at a time. When you play back your movie, you will see your creativity in motion!

MATERIALS

- Smartphone or tablet
- Small objects like toys, office supplies, or game pieces
- Smartphone or tablet stand (optional)
- Cardboard (optional)
- Cloth or colored paper (optional)
- Tape (optional)
- Legos or clay (optional)



MAKE TOGETHER

Stop motion animation is a type of filmmaking created by taking still pictures and playing back one after the other to create a moving image. Films like *Missing Link*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and *Coraline* animated puppets one photo at a time to make the character move.

For inspiration, check out the music video [Dog of My Dreams](#) created by CMOM partner [Ants on a Log](#) or watch the video created at CMOM in our newest exhibit Inside Art called [Take the Train to CMOM](#). How were the objects moving by themselves? You can use anything to create stop motion animation, even scraps of paper or collage.

Create your own stop motion animation!

- 1 Use the camera and photos app on your smartphone or tablet or download the free app we use at CMOM, [Stop Motion Studio](#).
- 2 Create your film on a table with a wall behind it for the background. You can create your own wall with a piece of cardboard. Add colored paper or a cloth to change the background.
- 3 Choose a cast of characters like small toys, office supplies, or game pieces. You can use legos or clay to design your characters.
- 4 Use a stand to keep your camera still or have a family member take photos while you move your characters.
- 5 In animation, you only move the character a little bit with every photo. The smaller the movement and the more photos you have, the smoother your animation will be. When using a stop motion app you can play back your photos all at once.

Keep making movies, you will get better with practice!

For more fun activities, please go to
cmom.org/resources

