



# imagination hub: digital making

## Stop Frame Animation

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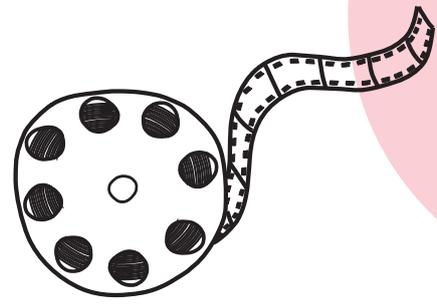
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# playing with stop frame animation



If you know movies like Wallace and Gromit or Shaun the Sheep, then you've already seen stop frame animation. Stop frame animation is a technique used to make any object appear to move on its own by taking many pictures of it and playing them all very quickly in sequence. The object is moved slightly in each picture so that, when the full sequence is shown, it seems to be moving. Ready to play with stop frame animation?

## activity one: fun friends film!

### Step 1

To play with stop frame animation, download the free Stop Motion Studio app to your phone or tablet. This app will work with any smartphone or a tablet, such as an iPad.



### Step 2:

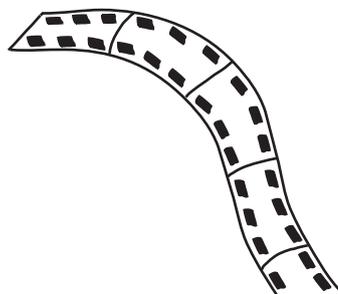
For this activity, collect together an assortment of five to eight fun things from outside or inside the house. You can use anything, from plasticine to toy cars. The more fun to the touch the better!

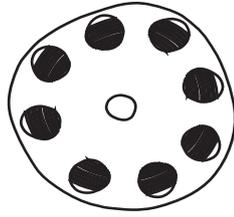
### Step 3:

Put all your objects in the spot where your film is going to take place. Think about what is going to happen in your film. I am going to have all these objects playing together and enjoying the way they are all different!



Make sure each object has nothing in common with the next and that they are all about the same size. I got a big leafy twig, a smooth stone, a fork, a small branch, a pepper and a hairbrush!



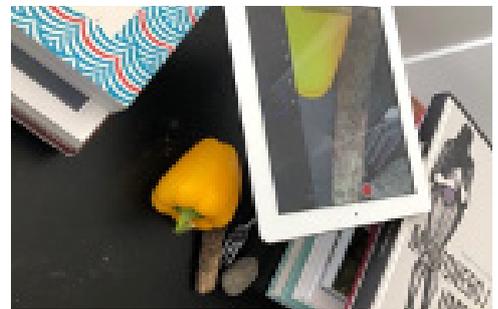


#### Step 4:

Decide where your film is going to take place and the best place for the tablet or phone camera to capture it. Get creative with making a stand for your tablet or phone. You can make one out of a wire hanger or you can get an overhead view using two piles of books and an iPad at an angle. I am going to go with an upright hold of the iPad using piles of books for my film!

#### Top tip

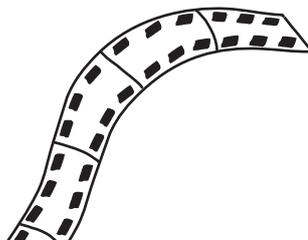
Make sure your tablet or phone is steady as this helps you take pics and makes your animation to go smoothly.



#### Step 5:

Place your objects at the start of the action and take your first picture. Now move all of the objects a tiny bit. Very tiny movements. Then go back and take another picture. Then move all the objects again, just a tiny bit, and take another picture.

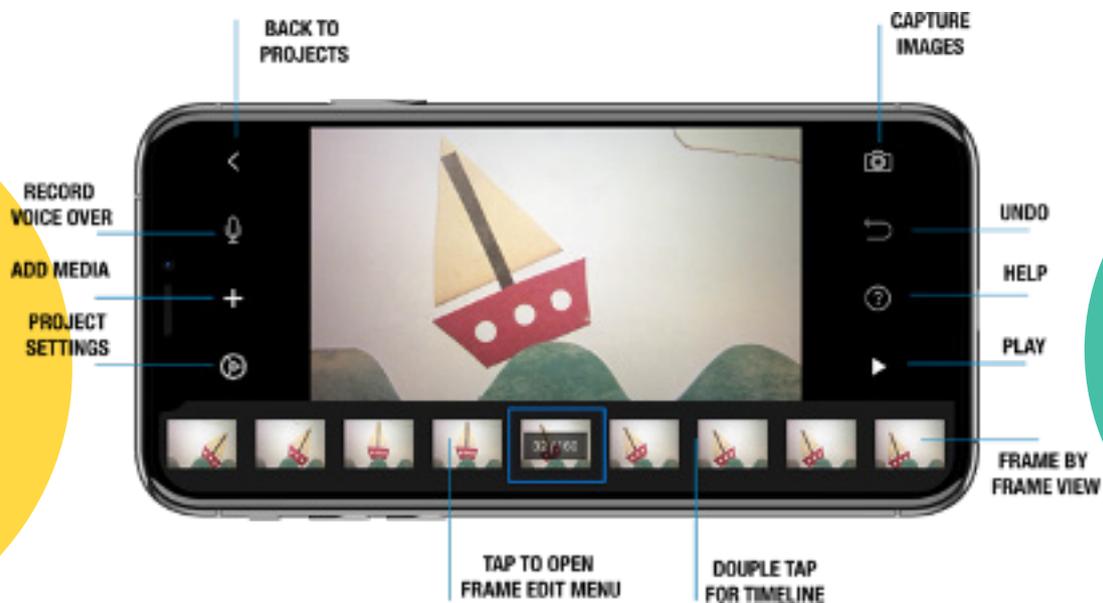
And that's it! Just keep going. The more pictures, the longer the film! The smaller the movements of the objects, the smoother the film! Try and build up at least 30 pictures in your sequence. At any time, you can watch your film - simply click the 'PLAY' button to see how it is coming along!



# things to think about

If your objects were friends and were playing together, what would they do? For example, my pepper is going to go in a circle around the stone while the stone spins! My fork is going to play with the branch on the leafy twig while the brush watches! Try and tell the story of your objects as best friends!

Here are some other features within the Stop Motion Studio app on a smartphone:



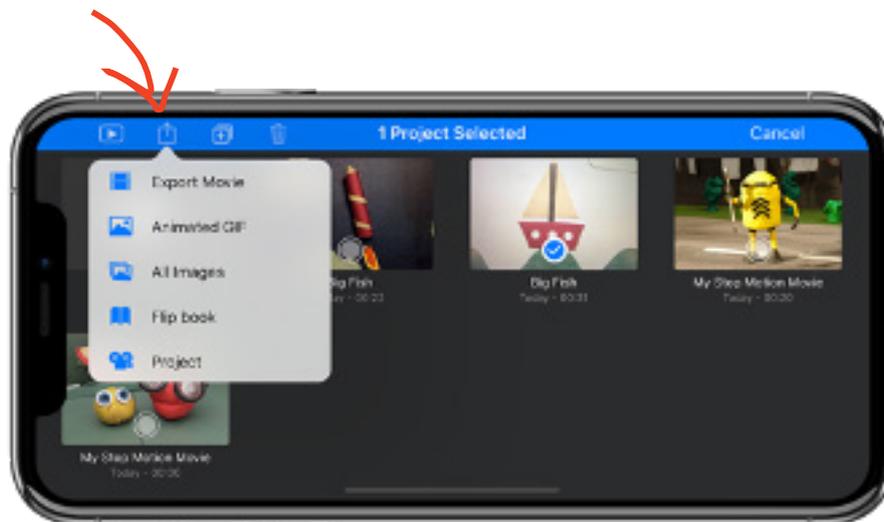
One of the best and most useful tools is what we call 'Onion Peel'. It's to the far left of the screen below. If you slide this you will be able to see the previous photo that you have just taken in layers, so that you can match up the image to make sure the camera stays steady.



You can adjust the speed of your stop frame animation by clicking 'Project Settings' and then clicking and adjusting 'Movie Speed'.

Click 'Add Media' (the + sign) and give your film an opening title! Maybe add in the names of your objects as the actors. You can say things like: Starring Yellow Pepper! or Guest Appearance from Smooth Stone!

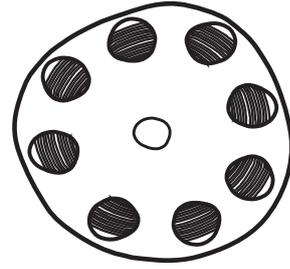
When you are happy with your animation, give your film a name and export it using the button shown below. Send it to yourself to keep and show your friends!



We would love to see it too, so please share it with us! Send it by email to us at [imaginationhub@ioi.london](mailto:imaginationhub@ioi.london) or share it with us on social media.



# activity two: growing a flower with stop frame animation

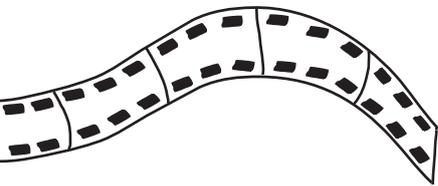


## Step 1:

Take your smartphone or tablet and use the piles of books to stand it upright. You might need an extra book or two to make the camera slightly higher.

## Step 2:

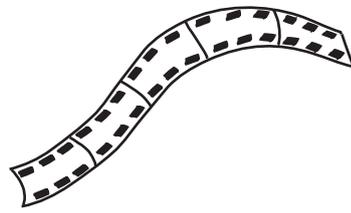
Take the flower and stick it in the soil in the flower pot. Place these in front of the phone/tablet so you can see the bottom of the flowerpot as well as the very top of the flower.



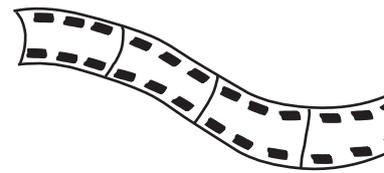
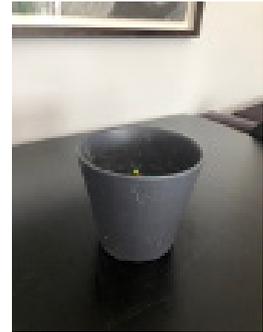
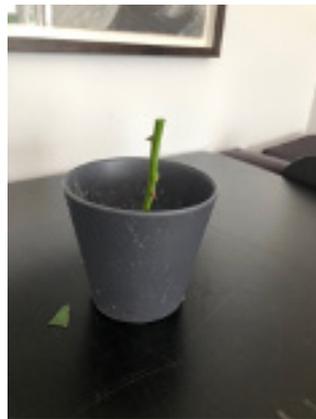
## Step 3:

Take a pic of your full flower to get started. Now snip the top most part of your flower and the very ends of leaves with your scissors. Just a small snip! Use the dustpan and brush to sweep what you have snipped away from the shot.





Take a pic and snip a bit more. Keep going taking pictures every time until you have snipped the flower all the way down to the soil. Make sure to take away the snippings every time.



#### Step 4:

If you play the film it will show the flower get smaller and smaller until it disappears in the soil. But we want it to grow out of the soil! Click the first image and then click select. Now drag across to select all the images in the film and then press REVERSE. Press play and watch your flower grow out of the soil into a full flower! The magic of stop frame animation!

