Water Storytelling for Earth Science Week

A toolkit for sharing stories through stop-motion animation
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Icebreaker: What Four Corners weather are you today?

- **Dry Thunderstorm**
  - Full of energy
  - Flashy

- **Drought**
  - Waiting for relief
  - In need of some Jergens

- **Flash Flood**
  - Fast acting
  - Enriching to your environment

- **Winter Storm**
  - Cool
  - Preparing for the future
We are Water
connecting communities

Connecting Communities. Sharing Stories. Sharing Place.
We are Water
- Public and Tribal libraries in the Four Corners Region
- Serving Indigenous, Latinx, and rural communities
- Connecting communities through conversations and explorations about water
- Multicultural traveling exhibit in Navajo, Spanish, English, and Ute languages
October 9-15

• Started in 1998 by the American Geosciences Institute
• Gain a better understanding and appreciation for Earth Sciences
• Encourage stewardship of the Earth
• 2022 Theme: "Earth Science for a Sustainable World"
  • Contests
  • Events
  • Activities
  • So much more!

www.earthscienceweek.org
Stop-Motion Animation
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

**Goal:** to create a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation of a story about water.

**Ages:** 6-8 with adult support, 9 and up

**Time:** two 1-1.5 hour sessions

**Materials:**
- Smart phone or tablet w/ camera
- Free Stop Motion application (or pro, paid version)
- Art supplies—felt, construction paper, foam shapes, etc.
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

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Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

Start with the story
1. Think of a story about water
2. Narrow it down to 1 sentence
3. Sketch it out!

Full story: when it was sunny and dry last summer, all the plants in my garden started to wilt. But then it rained on them and they started to grow again. At the end of the summer those plants had tomatoes! We ate them in salsa. The plants wouldn’t have grown if they didn’t get watered by the rain.

One Sentence Story: rain makes the garden grow.
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

Identify the key elements

• Who/what are the main characters?
  • These will be the “moving” parts
    • Sun, plants, clouds/rain

• What should be in the background?
  • These will be the “fixed” parts
    • Sky, soil/ground
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

Craft away!
Provide a range of materials
- Construction paper
- Felt
- Pre-cut shapes
- Pipe cleaners (can be shaped into anything!)
- Markers, pens, pencils
- Glue, scissors

**Make sure the main characters (moving parts) are not glued to the background (fixed part)!
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

Lights, camera, action!

- Stop Motion Studio—free app for smartphones, tablets
- Stop Motion Studio Pro—$5.99, enables extra features
- Step-by-step instructions in the instructor guide
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

Guess the story
• Work with a partner to view and re-tell each other’s stories

Revisit and revise
• Was anything confusing or unclear?
• Was anything missing?

Film your story again (optional)
Stop-motion Animation Contest

• Invite your patrons to submit entries.
• See the link in the link bank for more information.

STOP-MOTION ANIMATION STORY
Tell us a story about water! Submit a short (<1 minute) stop-motion animation about water for the chance to win one of ten $25 gift cards and a We are Water prize pack.

ORAL HISTORY
Share your own water story with us! Submit an oral history recording for the chance to win one of ten $25 gift cards and a We are Water prize pack.
Water-related Hands-on Activities

• Be a Water Historian
  • In this activity, participants will learn how to be a good interviewer, from identifying the person to be interviewed, to writing effective interview questions.
  • Participants will be able to share recorded stories with people in the community and elsewhere in the Four Corners region through the We are Water project.
  • Downloadable PDF available on the We Are Water website. A link is also in the link bank.
A Walk Through Time

- Libraries display historical photos of the community that relate to water and compare them with contemporary photos of the same areas.

- The activity can be an outdoor "history walk," a virtual photo gallery, or a display in the library.
Other ways to participate

• Photo Contest
  • We are Water is hosting a photo contest to showcase water and communities in the Four Corners Region.
  • We hope that these images will highlight how plants, animals, landforms, weather events, and their connections to water all play an important role in shaping what people see in the environment and how people interact with and learn from the natural world.
Next FREE Webinar

World Water Day: Celebrate the Building Block of Life

October 27 at 1 pm Mountain Time

Register: https://www.starnetlibraries.org/development/webinars/
Questions & Answers

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Utah State Library
Colorado State Library