

Teacher Instructions

Claymation

Title: Claymation

Grade Focus: 6-10

Subject: Art

Integration Activity: Digital Video

Recommended Time to Completion: 8 -10 weeks (estimate based on one class per week)

INTRODUCTION: Students will work in groups to plan and shoot their Claymation shorts. They will be required to produce a storyboard that includes a theme, setting and some characters (only one or two) to animate. For some background on Claymation (reg. tm), please refer to the sites included in the resources section of the Lesson plan.

As a preparatory activity the teacher could spend a portion of a class watching Wallace and Gromit and/or Chicken Run for examples of Claymation.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE: The student should have a basic knowledge of video planning and production and specifically, the knowledge of how to shoot frame-by-frame video. It would be a good review for the students to preview the training materials on **Digital Video** at www.NortelLearnIT.org

TEACHER PREP TIME: minimum 2 hours

Teachers should be comfortable with digital video production and should preview the resources dealing with Claymation. Teachers should review the Digital video materials at www.NortelLearnIT.org.

PROJECT: For this assignment students will submit their storyboards as well as their videos. Teachers should check storyboards before permitting the students to shoot. It will allow you to assist them with the process, particularly if they have taken on a little too much.

ASSESSMENT / GRADING: An evaluation rubric has been provided in the Evaluation Section. Teachers should provide a grade for the storyboard as well.

TIME MANAGEMENT TIP:

The Claymation short should be no longer than one minute. It is an extremely time intensive activity and requires patience by both the student and teacher.

Engage

Claymation is a common term used to describe stop motion animation that uses clay, plasticine or even playdoh covering a wire form or armature to create figures, scenery or characters that move. This technique requires that the producers and production team move the figures frequently to create the illusion that the figures are actually moving on their own.

Now that you have seen some footage of Wallace and Gromit and Chicken Run, would you believe that;

Over 250 production workers (includes 30 animators) worked on the film.

Over 115,000 frames of footage were required in the making of the Wallace and Gromit feature film.

Did you know that Chicken Little was the first full length Claymation movie?

Well how about it? Are you ready to enter the world of Claymation film production?

As you look over the resources provided in the following section, try to find as much information as you can concerning:

The techniques used in making a Claymation film.

How is it done?

Step-by-step procedures

Examples of shorts by both students and professionals.

Record your findings using a word processor.

When you have completed your research, you will form groups of two to four students and storyboard, script and produce a Claymation short film.

Explore

Here are some resources to help you understand Claymation techniques. Be sure to summarize your findings using a word processor and keep your summaries in your notes for the course.

Introduction to Claymation

<http://library.thinkquest.org/22316/trythis.html>

Claymation overview

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claymation>

Excellent student designed site with lots of information about Claymation. Includes lots of samples of student work.

<http://www.pwc.k12.nf.ca/projects/claymation/whatisclaymation.html>

Claymation – how to materials

<http://library.thinkquest.org/25398/Clay/ClayHowTo.html>

Student examples of Claymation projects.

<http://www.dbprescott.com/claymation.html>

Gumby World

<http://www.gumbyworld.com/gumbysgalaxy/video/robot5.html>

Be sure to document the source of your Internet research for your notes.

You should review the **Video Production** training videos from **Nortel LearniT** (www.NortelLearniT.org). You need to determine how to shoot frame-by-frame video.

Explain

Now that you have a good understanding of Claymation concepts and some idea of how to produce your own Claymation short, it is time to begin.

You will need to do some brainstorming in your groups to come up with some story ideas. Remember to keep it simple and short. You are not making a feature film.

Review the materials on storyboarding at www.NortelLearnit.org

Create your storyboard for the video. Be sure to include every scene change and figure movement you will need. This is a critical step that is never omitted by professionals. You will need to assess how many movements it will take to give the appearance of a complete movement. Something as simple as the blink of an eye, for example, can take many small movements of the character. Each movement should be documented for the crew.

Note: you must discuss your storyboard with your teacher before proceeding to the next stage of pre-production work.

Getting Ready – Assign the following tasks to your group members.

Task 1 - Create your characters using clay and an armature (pipe cleaner or wire skeleton). Keep in mind how the character/s will need to be moved when creating them.

Task 2 – Assemble all of the props and backgrounds.

Task 3 – prepare camera mounting and lighting for shooting

Task 4 – assemble materials for sound effects and audio

Elaborate

Now it is time to demonstrate your understanding of Claymation production.

Organize all of your materials for the taping sessions. Remember, it will take many frames of video and positioning to come up with a minute of video.

Set aside sufficient camera and studio or classroom time to complete your work.

You might want to use video editing software to edit some of your shots or to re-sequence some of the animation. Review the materials on post production at www.NortelLearnit.org.

Show your completed video to the class.

Evaluate

Criteria	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Exemplary
Research	Limited research, from limited sources	Somewhat well researched from somewhat varied sources.	Well researched, from various sources	Thorough research from varied sources presenting different points of view
Storyboard / planning	Limited planning evident	Some planning evident	Planning evident	Thorough planning evident
Content	Lacks detail	Some detail	Good detail	Excellent detail
Technology Use to Demonstrate Understanding	Technology use with little purpose	Technology use with some purpose	Technology use with purpose	Intuitive technology use with specific purpose
Overall Final Project	Inconsistent and inappropriate aesthetics and technical functionality	Somewhat consistent and appropriate aesthetics and technical functionality	Consistent and appropriate aesthetics and technical functionality	Consistent, creative and appropriate aesthetics and technical functionality

Hand in the storyboard for grading and approval by the teacher.

Self evaluation: Write a brief summary of what you have learned from the assignment. Be sure to include what your contribution was to the project and how you would assess your short film based on the rubric provided.

Extend

You have seen some excellent student websites dealing with Claymation. Perhaps you could produce your own for another assignment.

Hold a Claymation short festival at lunch or in the evening. Invite parents and friends.

