

FLIP BOOK INSTRUCTIONS

Directions: Use this page to explain to students the idea of a flip book and how to create one.

Animation is about creating illusion. It is the art of making still drawings appear to move on film. Nothing is real, nothing exists as it does in live drama — yet we are able to relate to animation characters as if they were real, and we can believe in the world where these characters live.

All films, including live action films, are actually created by joining together a sequence of still images called frames, with very small changes in-between progressive frames. A sequence of frames appears to move and to be alive when run through a TV, film projector or VCR. This happens because our eyes cannot keep up with the speed of change between each photograph and so naturally join all the images together. This is called **persistence of vision**.

Animated films are created by filming individual drawings. Each single drawing is called a **set-up** and is filmed in sequence for a certain number of frames. When twenty-four frames per second — each one slightly different — move in front of our eyes, we 'see' the picture moving. This movement gives us the impression that the characters are really moving and it brings the cartoon stories to life

From http://www.actf.com.au/learning_centre

1. Plan the sequence of pictures you want to show.
2. It is important to use small, simple changes in each picture. Make a sequence of up to ten pictures.
3. Sketch this sequence on scrap paper before actually starting to draw the flip book. This can be done on a piece of paper divided into a grid with 10 squares, using each square to show the element of the drawing which is to change on each page to keep the sequence going. This is called a storyboard and it is like a comic strip planning the sequence of the story.
4. Staple the blank pages carefully and firmly together along the left side to make a booklet. (Or use a post-it pad with at least ten post-its on it.)
5. Begin by drawing the first picture on the last page of the book. Draw each subsequent picture on one of the small blank pages. When the next page falls forward you will be able to see the previous page beneath. Trace or redraw most of that image changing a section of it slightly
6. Continue to flip and cover and redraw until the action sequence is complete. Keep the figure as close as possible to the edge of the page. Slightly change the action of one part of the drawing only on each page.
7. Flip through the booklet and watch the animation. Hold the flip book in your left hand and flip the pages from front to back with your right thumb.