

# Claymation Filmmaking in the Elementary Classroom

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# The Five Minute Animation!

Claymation is EASY!!!

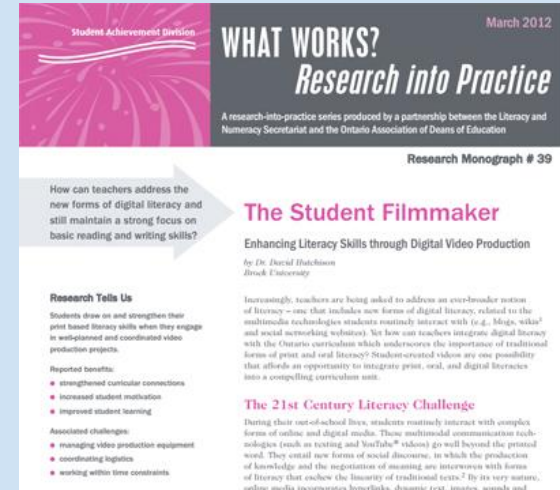


# Student Created Samples

Why Beaver Has a Flat Tail  
Shark Attack

# Why Claymation?

- Engaging
- Language Oral Effective Guides
- Problem Solving
- LNS



# Assessment for Report Cards

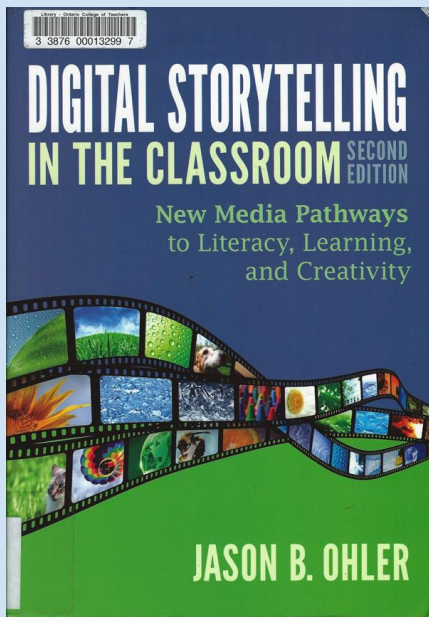
Learning Skills and Work Habits		E – Excellent   G – Good   S – Satisfactory   N – Needs Improvement
<b>Responsibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulfills responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment.</li> <li>Completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines.</li> <li>Takes responsibility for and manages own behaviour.</li> </ul>		<b>Strengths/Next Steps for Improvement</b>
<b>Organization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devises and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks.</li> <li>Establishes priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals.</li> <li>Identifies, gathers, evaluates, and uses information, technology, and resources to complete tasks.</li> </ul>		
<b>Independent Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independently monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals.</li> <li>Uses class time appropriately to complete tasks.</li> <li>Follows instructions with minimal supervision.</li> </ul>		
<b>Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group.</li> <li>Responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others.</li> <li>Builds healthy peer-to-peer relationships in person and through personal and media-assisted interactions.</li> <li>Works with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals.</li> <li>Shares information, resources, and expertise, and promotes critical thinking to solve problems and make decisions.</li> </ul>		
<b>Initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning.</li> <li>Demonstrates the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks.</li> <li>Demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning.</li> <li>Approaches new tasks with a positive attitude.</li> <li>Recognizes and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others.</li> </ul>		
<b>Self-Regulation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them.</li> <li>Seeks clarification or assistance when needed.</li> <li>Assesses and reflects critically on own strengths, needs, and interests.</li> <li>Identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals.</li> <li>Perseveres and makes an effort when responding to challenges.</li> </ul>		



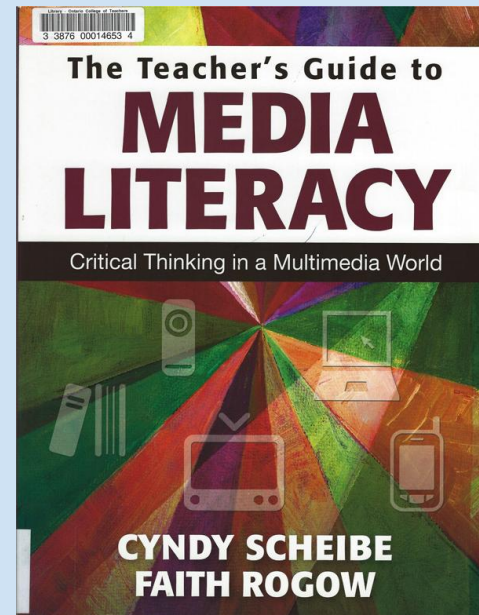
# Project Ideas

The teacher determines the theme and project criteria/parameters.

If you are looking for direction on this there is a wealth of professional literature available.



Available for free through  
Ontario College of  
Teachers Library!





# Project Ideas

The teacher determines the theme and project criteria/parameters

- Health [e.g., anti-smoking PSAs]
- Social Studies [how natives helped early settlers; pourquoi tales]
- EcoSchools [PSAs, “How to” Guides on Composting, etc.)
  - [Planet in Focus Student Film Festival \[Toronto+York+Ottawa\]](#)
- Science [mock weather forecasts]
- Project Based Learning [Eco campaigns such as establishing bottled water free zones in schools]
- Special Occasions [Terry Fox, Remembrance Day, Winter Holidays, etc.]



# Ideas for Themes

- Danger!
- Holiday
- Fairy Tales
- Commercials

2 Min Max!







# Theme Example Inglewood

- Why Pourquoi Tales?
  - Language Curriculum [Grade 3 Media Literacy, producing media texts]
  - Social Studies Curriculum [Grade 3 Communities in Canada, includes inquiry into First Nations]
  - Eco component
  - Student familiarity with form (numerous examples of pourquoi tales are available to share with students such as *Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ears*, etc.)

# Four Easy Steps to Make a Claymation Film

Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

Step 2: Shooting the Film

Step 3: Editing

Step 4: Sharing

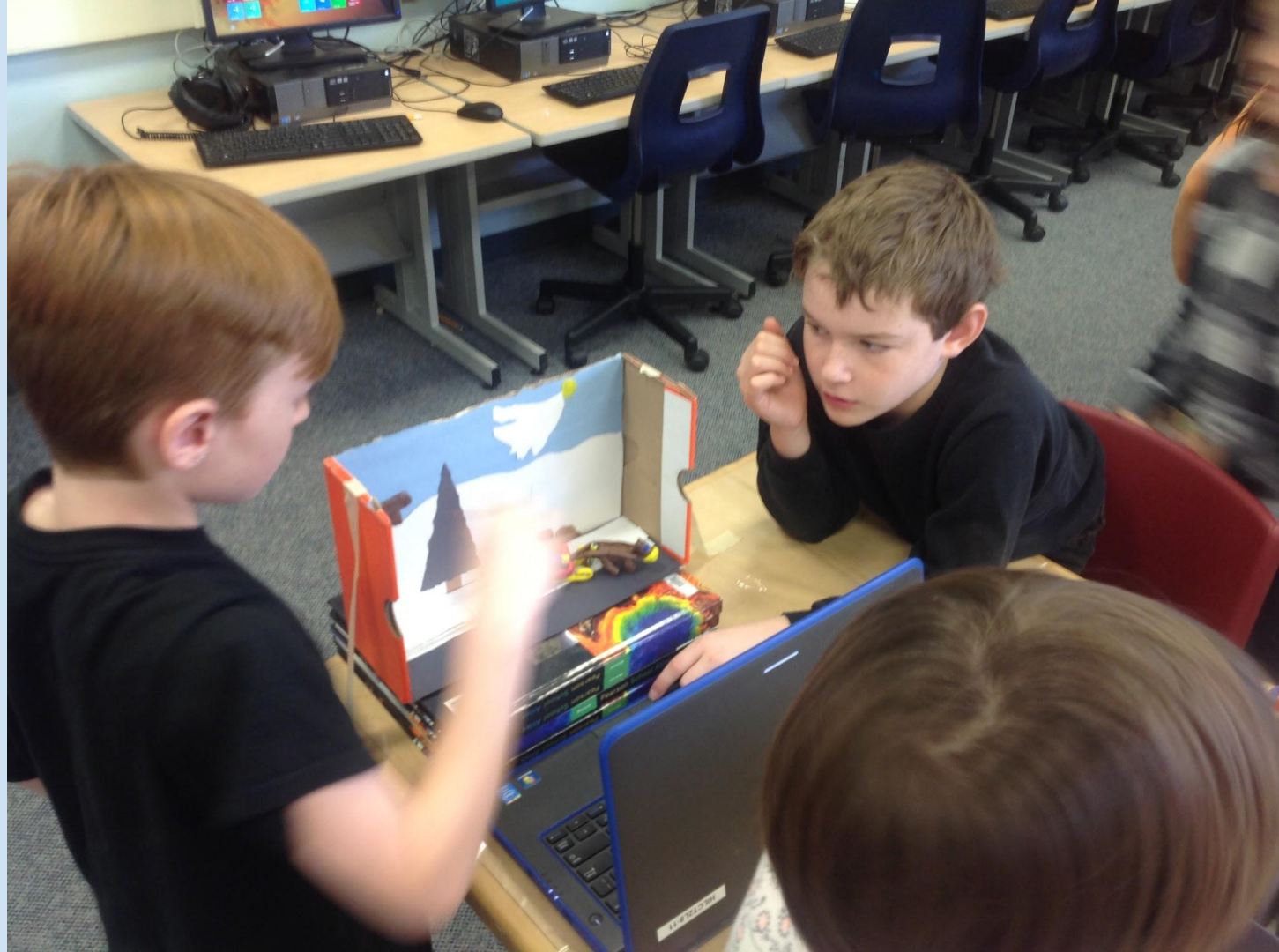


# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters











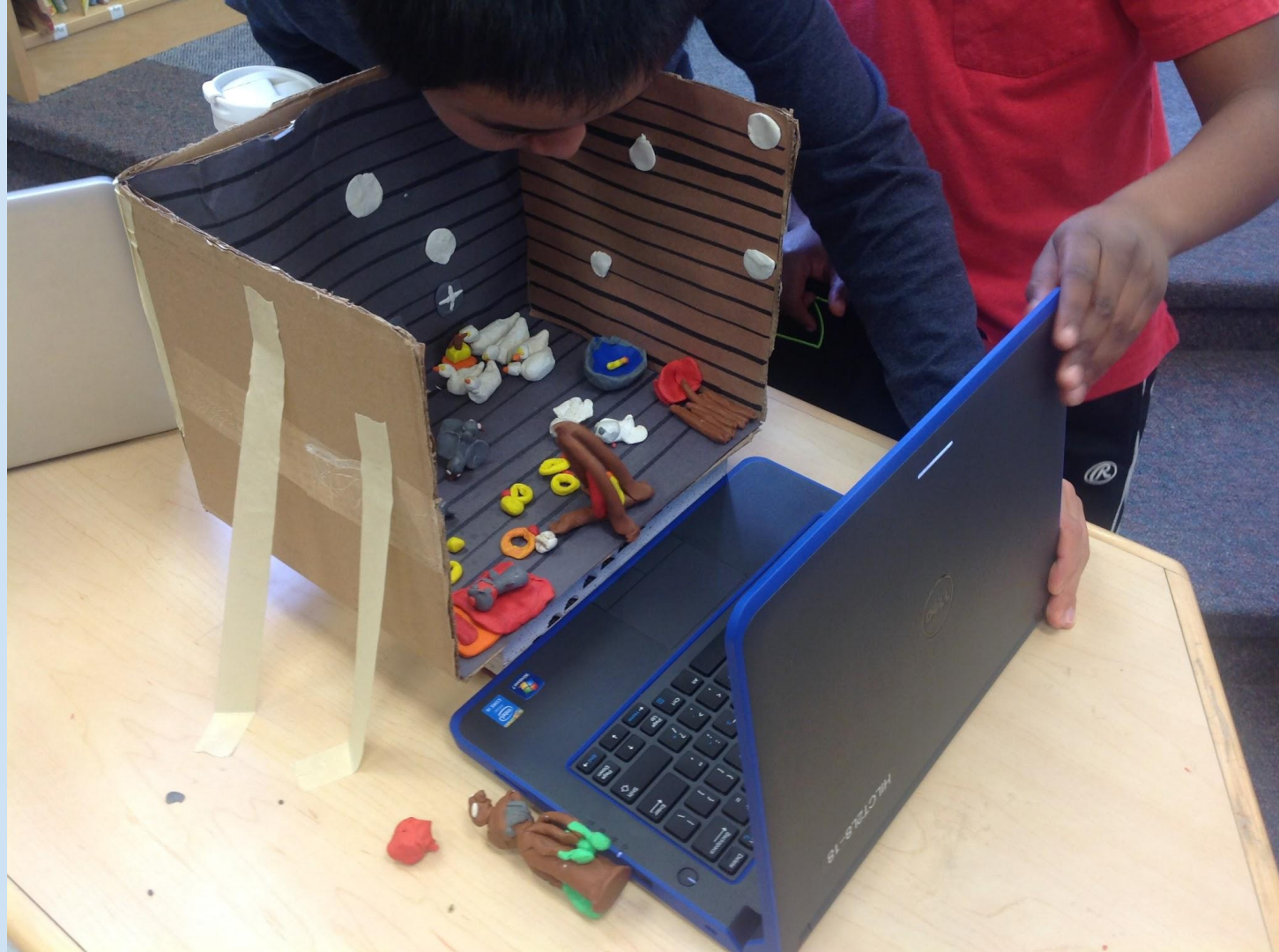










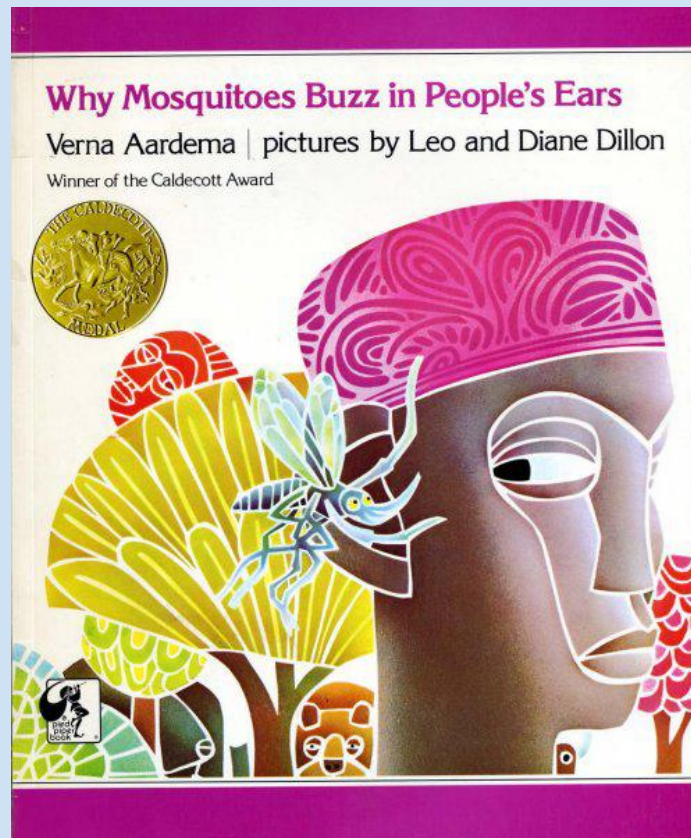




# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales

- read some pourquoi tales to students
  - Epic Reads (free teacher account)
  - Reading A-Z (subscription account)





# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales

- view some short film versions of pourquoi tales
  - National Film Board of Canada (apply for a Campus account!)
  - Learn360

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NFB website. The page is titled 'My Playlists: Fables - NFB'. The main content area shows a playlist titled 'Fables' with a description: 'Click to add description.' Below the description is a video player showing a scene from the animated film 'The North Wind and the Sun: A Fable by Aesop'. The video player has a play button and a description: 'This short animated film illustrates the fable in which the warm sun proves to the cold wind that persuasion is better than force when it comes to making a man remove his coat.' To the left of the video player is a sidebar with a list of categories: Animals (3 films), Fables (1 film), Native Peoples (2 films), Celebrations (1 film), Character Ed (4 films), Holidays (2 films), Media Literacy (4 films), Remembrance Day (6 films), Soundtrack Project (9 films), Animation/Media (14 films), Stories (3 films), and Environment (7 films). The 'Fables' category is selected. To the right of the video player is a section titled 'WATCH THE PLAYLIST' with a link to 'https://www.nfb.ca/m/play'. Below this is a section titled 'SHARE THIS PLAYLIST' with a link to 'https://www.nfb.ca/m/play'. At the bottom of the page is a footer with links to 'Our films', 'Applications', 'Newsletter', 'About', 'Site Map', 'NFB/blog', 'NFB/distribution', 'NFB/education', 'NFB/images', 'Institutional Website', 'Resources for filmmakers', 'Jobs', 'Help?', 'Contact Us', 'DVD Store', 'Important Notices', 'Unsubscribe', 'Press Room', and 'Site en français'.



# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales

- set some parameters
  - animals must be from Ontario
  - story set in distant past

Coming soon to a  
neighbourhood near you!







# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales

- fill in form before storyboarding (list characters, tell what the pourquoi tale explains, etc.)

Tip:

Make sure you ask students what is explained in the story

- At the start of the story Beaver has a round tail
- At the end of the story Beaver's tail is flat and has marks on it



# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales - Storyboard Example

It is possible to use  
Pixie to create a  
storyboard but very  
time consuming and  
limited (does not  
include sound effects,  
etc.).



Pourquoi Tale Planner

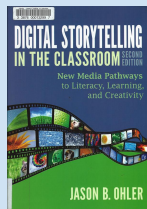
My theme (topic) is: why animals behave as they do



# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales - Story Table Example

Using story tables (with Google Docs) is a much more efficient way to plan your claymation. For more info see Digital Storytelling in the Classroom.



**Story Table**  
**Why Beaver's Has a Flat Tail**

Video	Script	Sound Effect	File Name
Opening Credits	Why Beaver Has a Flat Tail		
Three friends appear in forest scene. Close up of three.	Long, long ago three friends lived in the forest: Beaver, River Otter and Lynx.	ribbed stick + plastic rod lynx overdub	long_ago_final.mp4 longago_3_friends_still.mp4
Beaver building a dam with few sticks. Snow falling	Winter was coming so Beaver was building a dam but could not find enough logs and sticks.	snow bells	sticks_final.mp4
Close up of beaver asking for help.	She asked River Otter to help her. River Otter helped beaver find some sticks.	ribbed stick + plastic rod	beaver_talk.mp4 otterh_help_final.mp4
Close up of lynx with mad face.	Lynx was upset because he was not asked to help.	black gourd thing x 3	lynx_face.mp4
Close up of paw and scratched tail.	Lynx was so angry he used his claws and scratched Beaver's tail.	spring contraption	tail_cu_final.mp4
Close up of	"Oww!" said Beaver. "Why	wow bell	oww_final.mp4



# Step 1: Brainstorming/Storyboarding/Building Sets & Characters

## Pourquoi Tales

- make characters (plasticine)
- make background (construction paper)



## Step 2: Shooting the Film

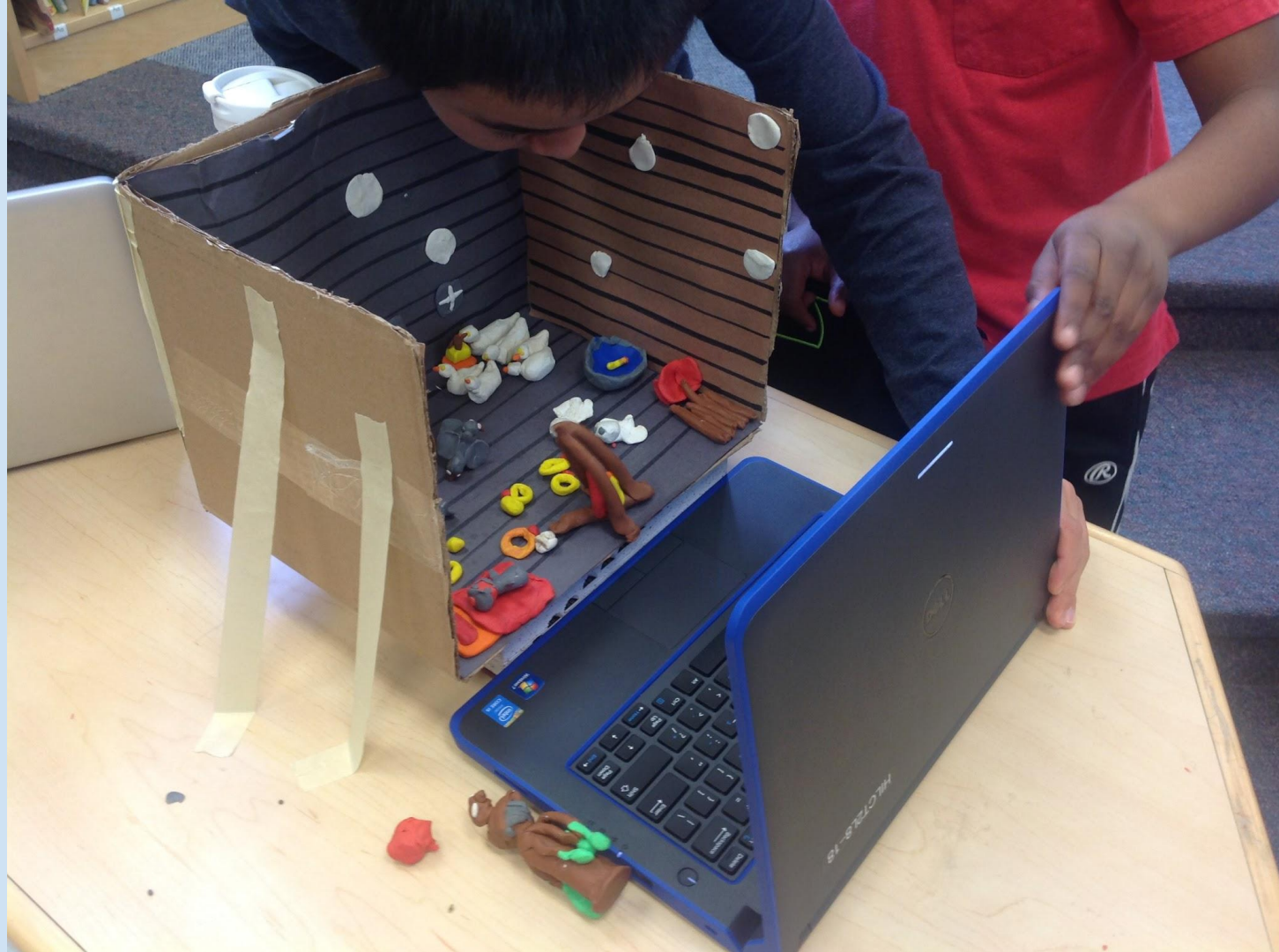
- lighting
- student roles 1 shoots, 1 moves
- securing the props/sets
- camera positioning
- how long is a shoot?













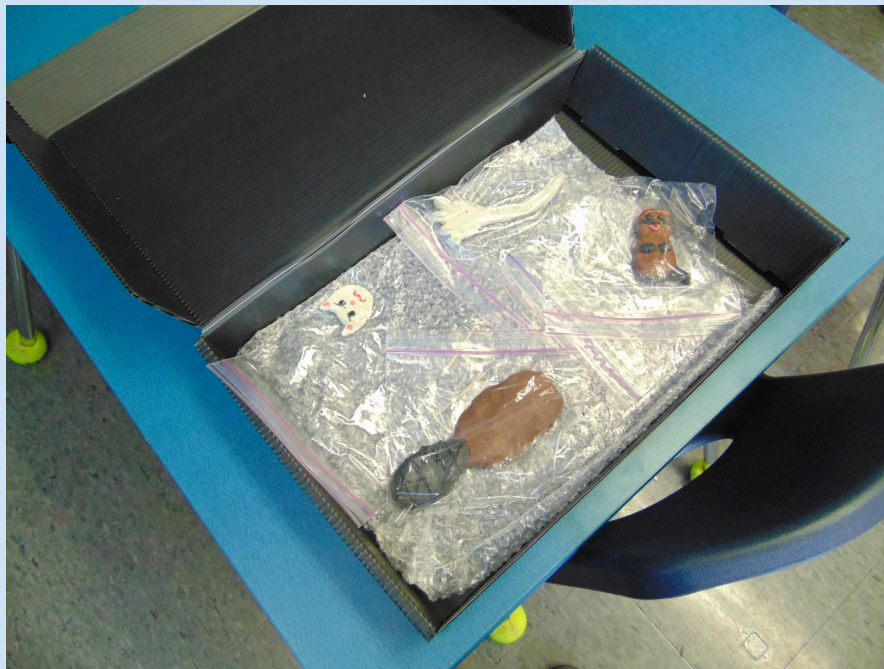




# Step 2: Shooting the Film

## Pourquoi Tales

Helpful Tip:  
Keep your characters in plastic  
bags inside a laptop box!





# Step 2: Shooting the Film

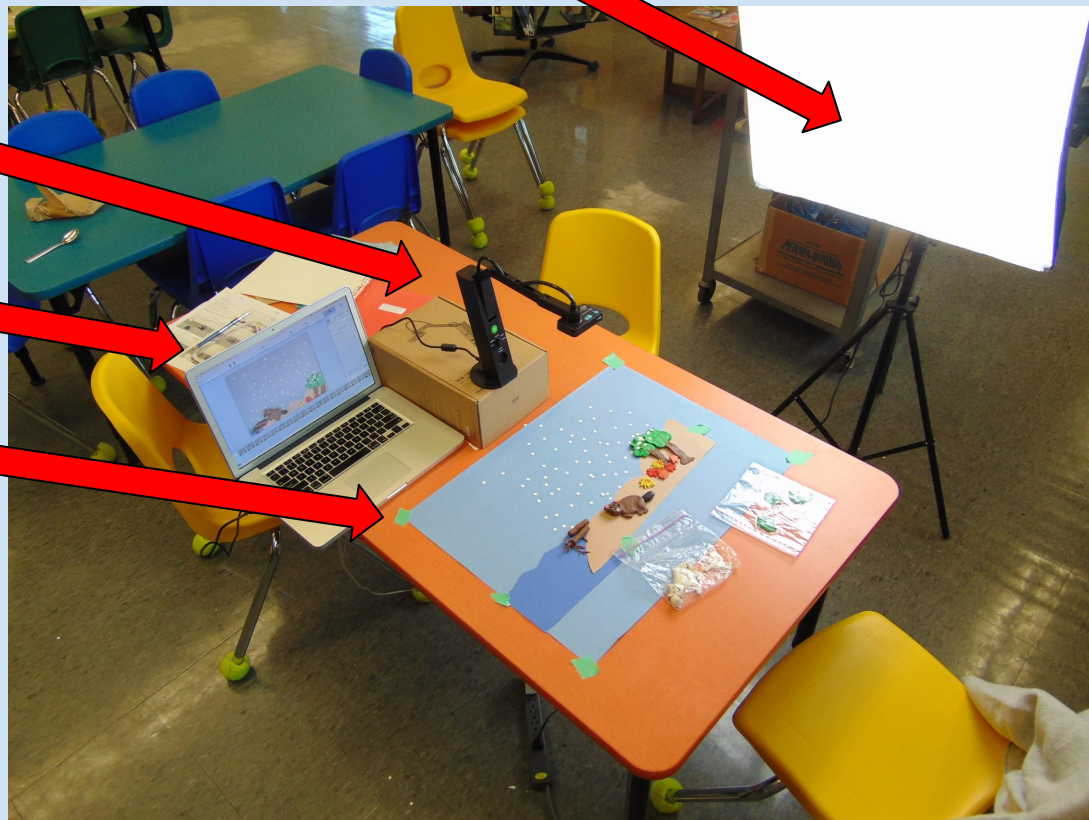
Pourquoi Tales

Document camera (Ipevo)

Computer with Frames

Green painter's tape

Light box (optional)







# Step 2: Shooting the Film

## Pourquoi Tales

Be sure to secure your background before you begin taking your slides!

Save your work every 5 minutes or less!







# Step 2: Shooting the Film - Voice Recording

## Pourquoi Tales

Hard to see voice recorder!  
(optional - you can use your phone or a computer for this).



Be sure to practice before recording. Include choral reading parts for more impact.



# Step 2: Shooting the Film - Soundtrack Recording

Pourquoi Tales

*Politely* ask your music teacher if you can borrow some instruments to create an original soundtrack!

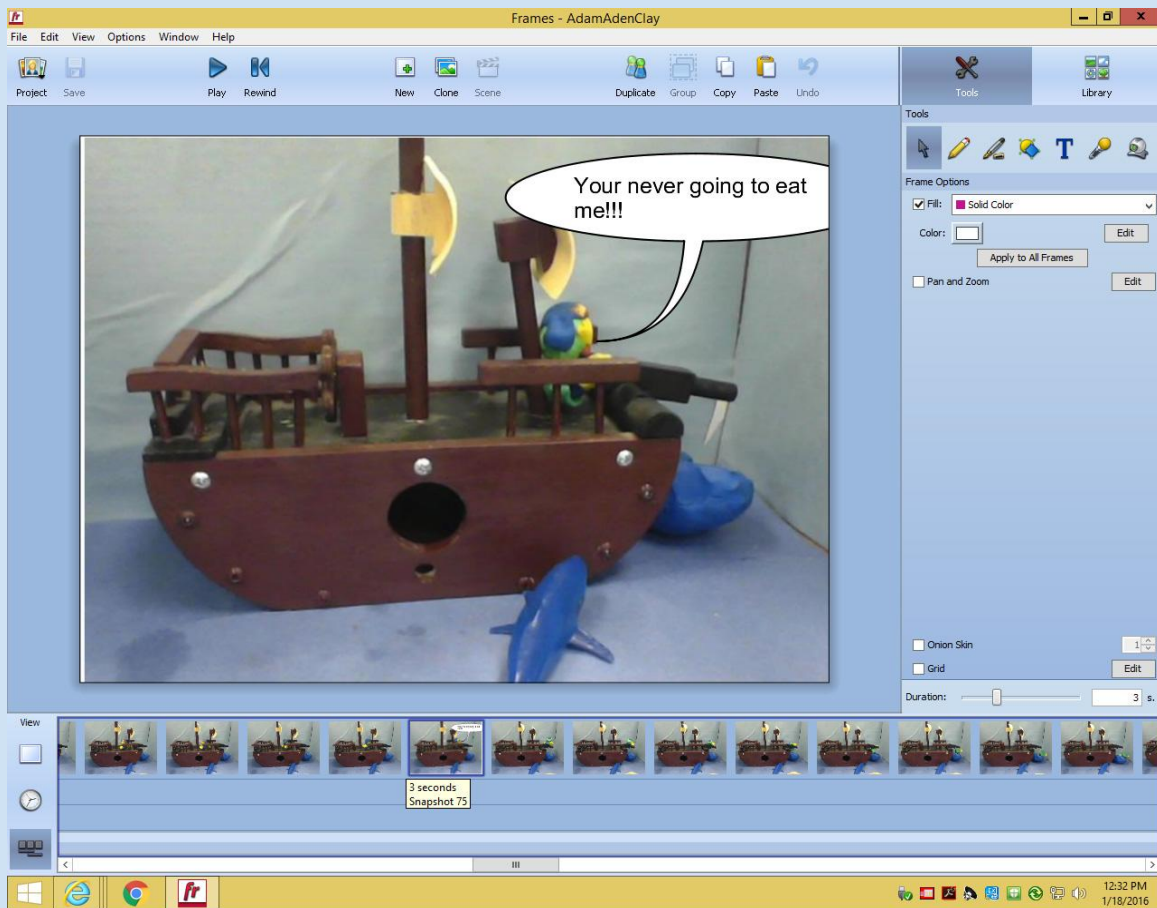
voice recorder



# Step 3: Editing Where Movie Magic Happens!

What does this step look like?

- Remove Lousy Pictures
- Duration
- Text Boxes
- Titles and Credits
- Voice Recording
- Sound Effects
- Music













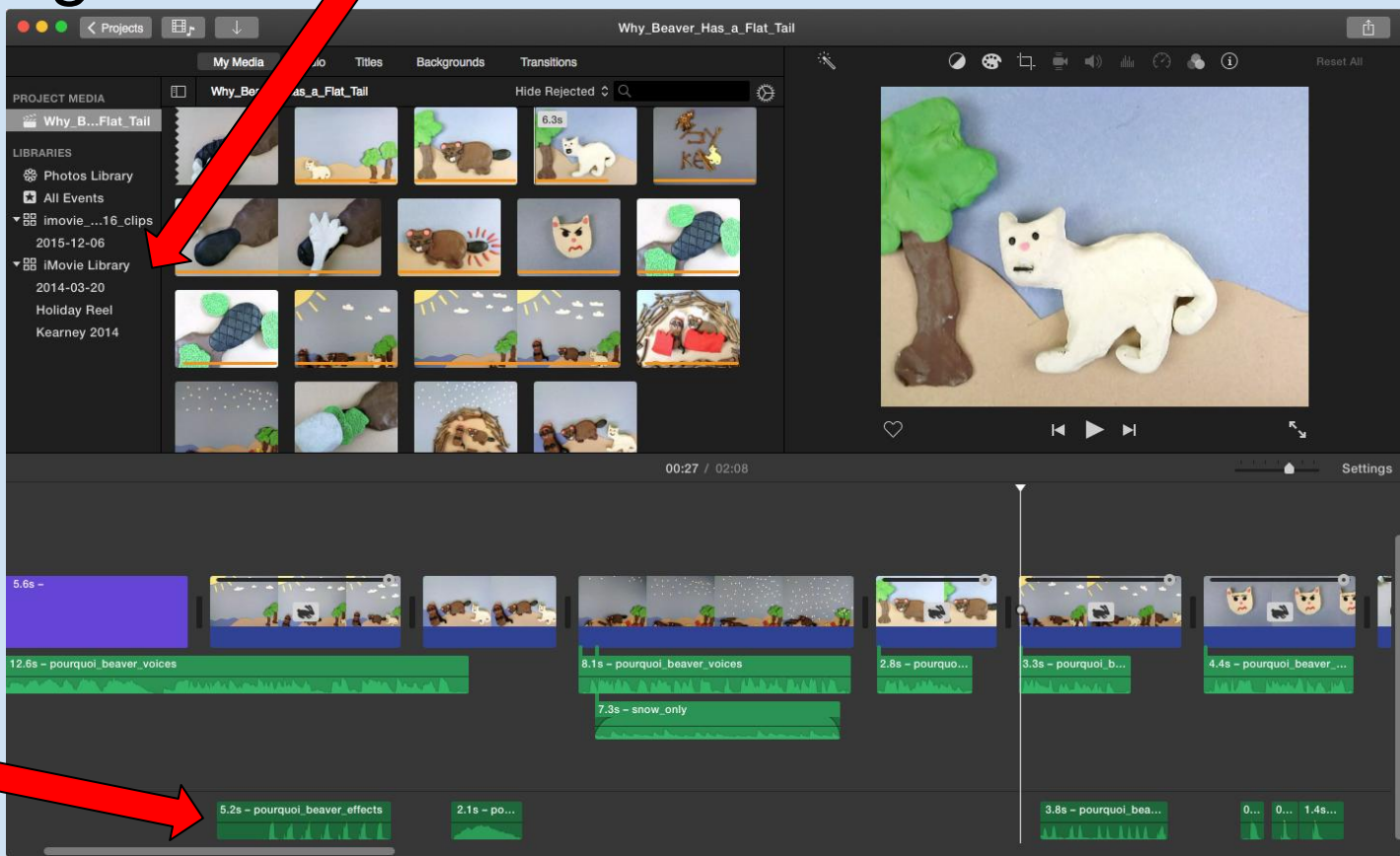


Add .mov and .mp4 files from Frames into your iMovie Events Library

# Step 3: Editing

## Pourquoi Tales

iMovie is a user friendly film editor if you want to have more control over the finished product.





## Step 4: Sharing

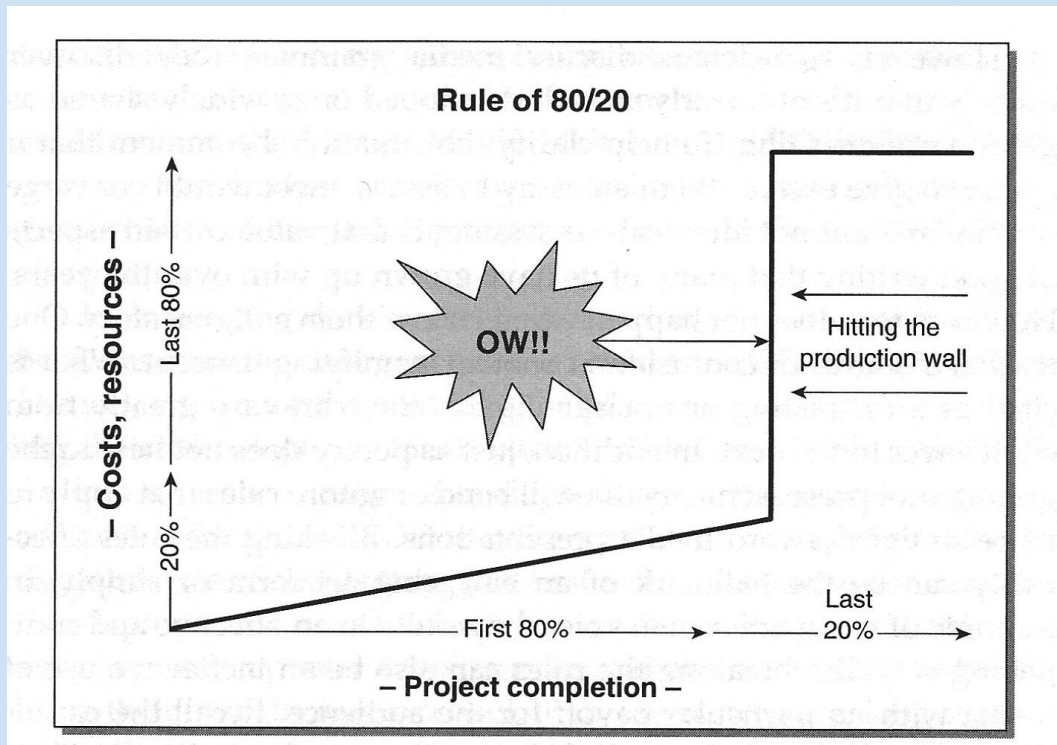
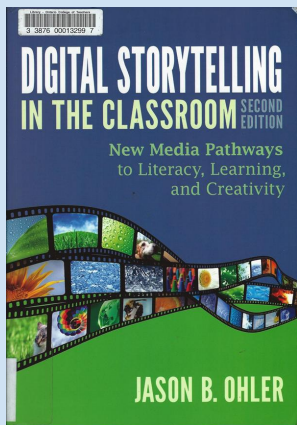
- Export to .mov file
- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Have mini film festival in classroom
- Share in school assemblies
- Youtube/Vimeo/Google Drive (upload to these sites then provide links on your school website, emails, Twitter feeds, etc.)
- Link to school website [[Inglewood Heights JPS](#)]
- Film festivals such as [Planet in Focus Short Film Festival](#)



# Other Considerations - Rule of 80/20

Don't get stuck at the production wall!

80% is okay!








# Other Considerations - Media Releases

Do not leave this until the last minute!

If required, scratch out “image” and send the form home for signing. You may also try to get consent for single projects, as needed.

Best practice is to NEVER use last names!

 **Student Media Release Consent Form**  
*Please ensure one box is checked for Part 1 and one box is checked for Part 2 of this form.*

**Part 1 – Events**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby agree and give my permission for the  
(Name of parent/guardian if student is a minor, under the age of 18.  
Name of student if an adult, 18 years of age or older.)

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and/or partners to record, film, photograph, audiotape or videotape my/my child's name, image, student work, and performance (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Works”) and to display, publish or distribute these Works for the purpose of publishing, posting on the TDSB website, posting in schools, posting on social media sites and/or for broadcasting on television or radio as determined by the TDSB.

I hereby waive any right to approve the use of these Works now or in the future, whether the use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to any royalties related to the use of these Works.

I understand that the Works may appear in electronic form on the internet or in other publications outside of the TDSB's control. I agree that I will not hold the TDSB responsible for any harm that may arise from such unauthorized reproduction.

☐ Please mark this box if you **AGREE** that your child may participate in recorded TDSB/school events and TDSB hosted events as described above. (See Part 2 below)

☐ Please mark this box if you **DO NOT WISH** your child to participate in recorded TDSB/school events and TDSB hosted events.

**Part 2 – Media Specific**

I also understand that external media organizations may attend school events. I give permission for my/my child's name, image, student work, and performance to be photographed, filmed, audio-taped or videotaped for the purpose of being published and/or broadcast on-line, on television or radio.

☐ Please mark this box if you **AGREE** that your child may participate in media events that may be published or broadcast by organizations external to the Toronto District School Board.

☐ Please mark this box if you **DO NOT WISH** your child to be photographed, filmed, audio-taped or videotaped at media events.





I have read this Student Media Release Consent Form and I fully understand the contents and meaning of this release. I understand that I am free to contact the Principal with any questions regarding this release.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature (If 18 years of age or older) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature (If student is a minor – under the age of 18): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Other Considerations - Copyright

Always acknowledge your sources!!

You are free to:	Under the following conditions:
 to <b>Share</b> — to copy, distribute and transmit the work	 <b>Attribution</b> — You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).
 to <b>Remix</b> — to adapt the work	 <b>Noncommercial</b> — You may not use this work for commercial purposes.



# Other Considerations - Free Content

You can sign up for a free account with [Freesound.com](https://freesound.com)!!

The screenshot shows the Freesound.com website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Freesound logo, links for 'Register', 'Log In', and 'Upload Sounds', and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Sounds', 'Forums', 'People', and 'Help'. The main content area displays search results for 'fireworks'. The first result is 'Fireworks, Standard and ...' by InspectorJ, featuring a waveform and a description: 'Raw audio of standard fireworks in combination with some whistle fireworks. Please comment on where you intend to use the ...'. It has 1344 downloads and 17 comments. The second result is 'Fireworks, Distant, B.wav' by InspectorJ, with a description: 'Raw audio of several distant fireworks. These ones sound closer than in "Fireworks, Distant, A.wav". There are two instances of ...'. It has 29 downloads and 0 comments. The third result is 'Fireworks, Distant, A.wav' by InspectorJ, with a description: 'Raw audio of several distant fireworks. It is rather quiet, so you may need to boost it. Please comment on ...'. It has 40 downloads and 0 comments. On the right side, there are sections for 'licenses' (Attribution (412), Attribution Noncommercial (226), Creative Commons 0 (339), Sampling+ (16)), 'tags' (a list of various sound-related tags like 'bang', 'boom', 'explosion', etc.), and 'type' (aif (36)).

Register Log In Upload Sounds

search sounds

Sounds Forums People Help

fireworks Automatic by relevance search

Show advanced search options

previous next 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ... 32 | 993 sounds

**Fireworks, Standard and ...** ★★★★★ InspectorJ  
November 17th, 2015  
1344 downloads  
17 comments

Raw audio of standard **fireworks** in combination with some whistle fireworks. Please comment on where you intend to use the ...

boom standard Explosion Boom firework Bang whistle Standard bang Fireworks rocket Whistle

3 more results in the same pack "Fireworks, Close"

**Fireworks, Distant, B.wav** ★★★★★ InspectorJ  
January 6th, 2016  
29 downloads  
0 comments

Raw audio of several distant **fireworks**. These ones sound closer than in 'Fireworks, Distant, A.wav'. There are two instances of ...

Explosion Distant firework distant Firework fireworks Rocket rocket explosion Fireworks

**Fireworks, Distant, A.wav** ★★★★★ InspectorJ  
January 6th, 2016  
40 downloads  
0 comments

Raw audio of several distant **fireworks**. It is rather quiet, so you may need to boost it. Please comment on ...

Explosion Distant firework distant Firework fireworks Rocket rocket explosion Fireworks

**licenses**

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- Sampling+ (16)

**tags**

ambience ambient bang bomb boom crowd distant explosion explosions field-recording fire fire-works firecracker firecrackers firework fireworks granular-synthesis gun loud new new-year people pop processed pyrotechnics rocket rockets shot war year

**type**

- aif (36)

# Tips and Tricks!

Choose a small experimental project and complete every step to iron out all the issues BEFORE starting your main project!

Train ONE class well, have students from that class train the others

Teacher is NOT the sage

Keep your animations short - maximum 2-3 minutes!

Number of frames/pictures does not determine duration or quality

Be prepared for taking a lot of shots! 800 is not too many!

Backup originals FREQUENTLY (keep in two places!)



# Resources

All aspects of Filmmaking: [Director in the Classroom](#)

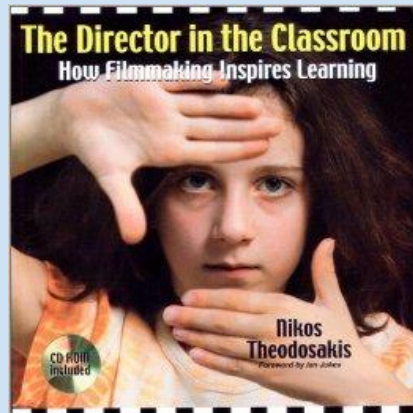
Project Based Learning + Frames Software (stop motion animation): [Tech4Learning](#)

Tech4Learning Guide (PDF): [Making Claymation in the Classroom](#)

Barbara Reid Plasticine Tutorial: [Barbara Reid Videos](#)

Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat: [Student Filmmakers](#)

Free Sound Content: [freesound.org](#)



# Student Work Samples

[The Crazy Alphabet](#) [Low resolution!]

[Why Beaver Has a Flat Tail](#) [Low resolution!]

[Shark Attack](#)

[Holiday Trouble](#)