Stop-motion Animation Part 2: Claymation - 'The Blob'

This short art activity is aimed at introducing youth to artists and art history concepts. It also encourages creativity and play.

Please send students' final product to **ppe@casulapowerhouse.com** or tag #CPACCREATIVES on social media.

Image still from CPAC Youtube digital content, 2020

Create your own stop-motion animation!

Creating stop-motion can be as simple or as complex as you would like it to be. For this worksheet, we will create our animation using clay. I will be explaining how to make clay move! This worksheet is a continuation of Part.1: Stop Motion found in our CPAC Digital content page.

Materials:
- Materials:
- Modelling Clay - Plasticine
- Nice flat surface (like a table) with a cover (like paper) as plasticine can be quite greasy
- Smart phone or a tablet
- Download a free stop motion app – Florence used '[Stop Motion Studio](#)' app*
- A stand or someone to help you film
- A place with good lighting, or use a lamp

* The Stop Motion Studio app is also available on the [Google Play Store](#).

Method: Creating the Blob Stop-motion

1. Pull out a piece of plasticine, big enough for your camera lens to see. Choose a colour that will show up well on camera – something bright on dark surface, or dark on light surface. I am using yellow on a black surface.

2. Roll the plasticine into a ball.

3. Prepare your table with a piece of paper, or table cover as plasticine is quite greasy. Make sure the surface is visible. Make sure you don't mess up tables at home! Otherwise warm soapy water will remove the grease.

4. Find someone to help you hold the smartphone/tablet for filming. Otherwise find something you can safely place your smartphone/tablet on to, making sure it is very still and doesn't fall. I used a laptop stand. Be sure not to break your expensive devices! Always get help!

5. Open your Stop Motion Studio app.

6. Start a '**New Movie**' (symbol with a huge + sign) – you will then be taken to a new project ready for filming.
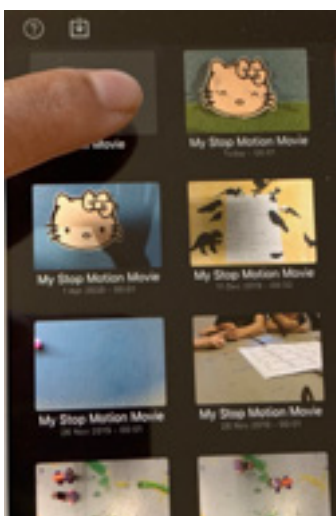
7. **New Movie** will take you to a fresh screen. Place your plasticine ball onto the centre of the frame.

8. **Press record**, the red button on the far right of the screen. Always establish your content with a start, so that your audience knows what's going on. That's your first shot!

9. Keep taking shots **by pressing record** each time you move your blob. It really depends on how fluid you want the blob to be, or how jagged. Just experiment!
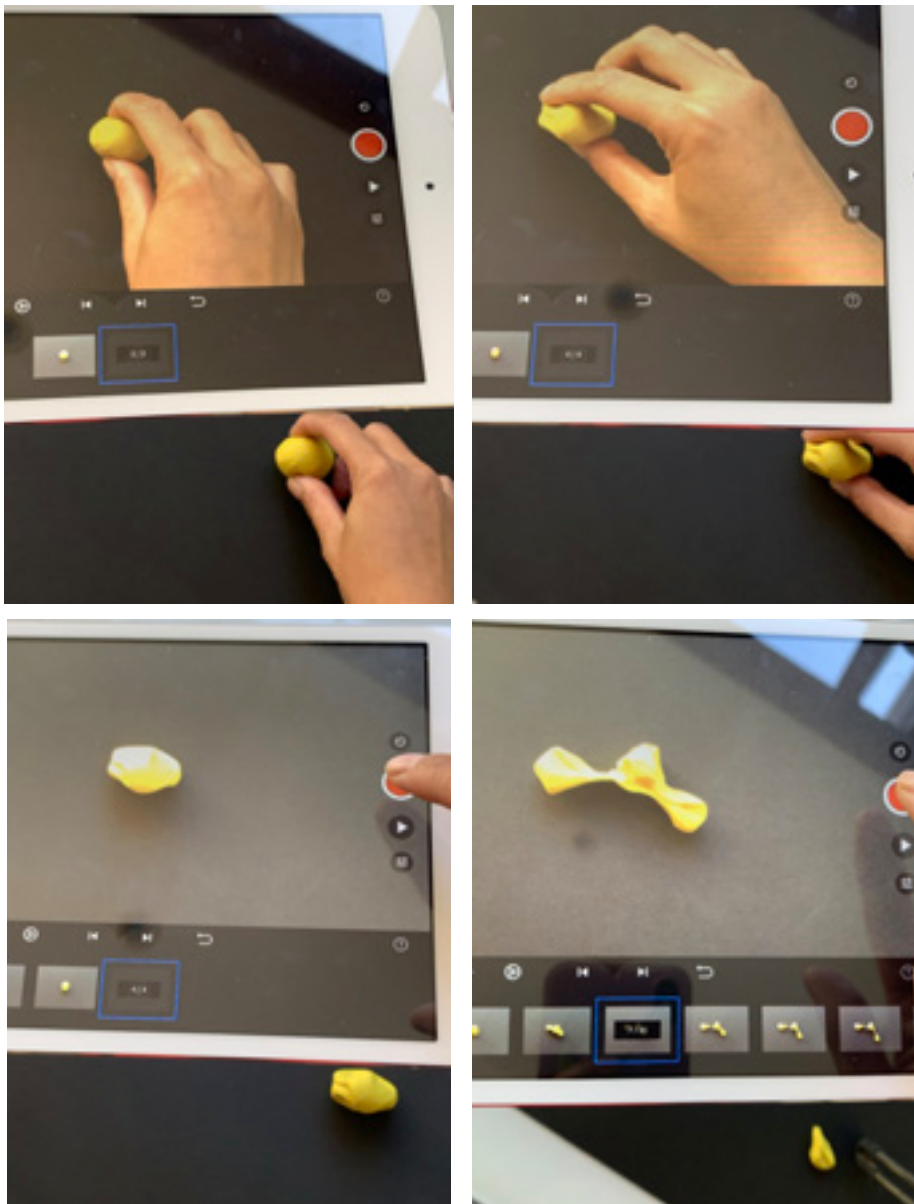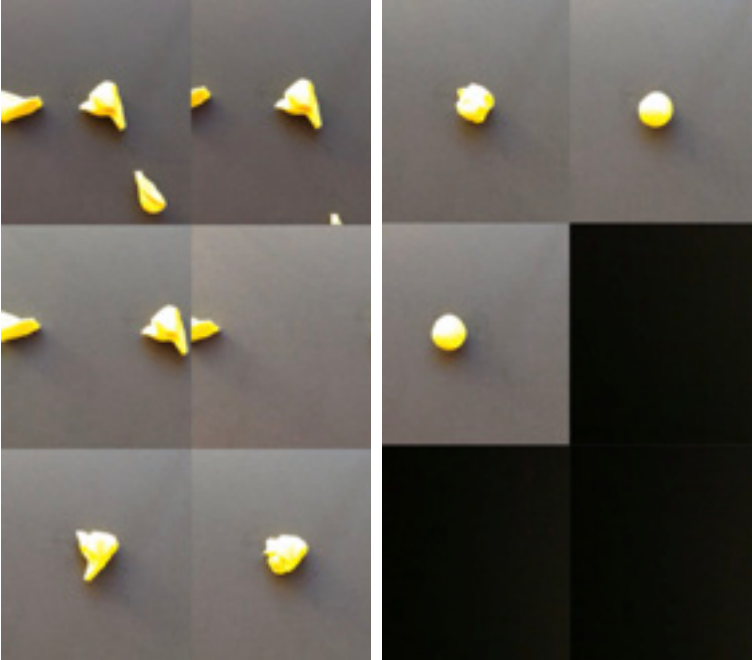
10. The next few steps are really up to how organic/blobby/animated you want your blob to be. I've used about 21 shots (21 times I pressed record) to get my finished product.
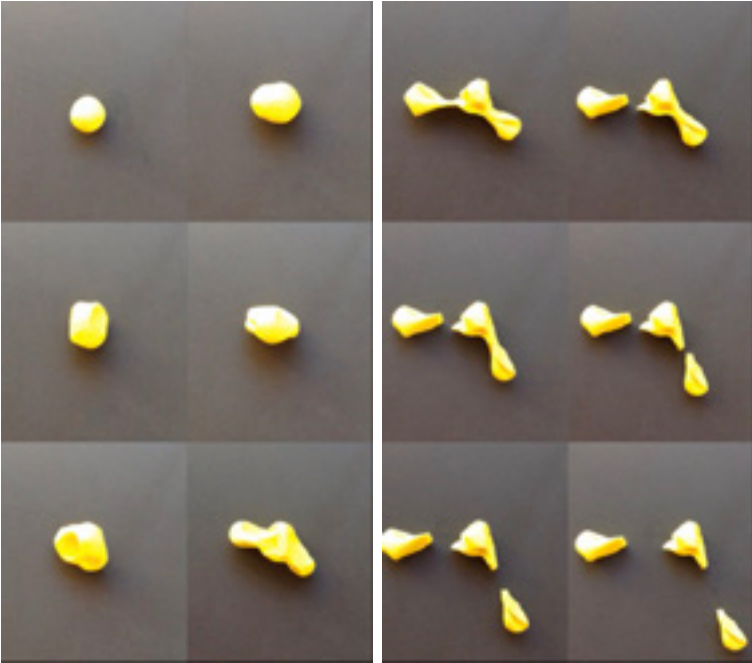

Frames 1-6

Frames 7-12

Frames 13-18

Frames 19-21

11. Once you are happy with your shots, drag your movie by scrolling the frames (the images of your shots) to the first shot. To watch the play back, **press Play**.

12. The app automatically saves your project. To save your finished movie to your phone, **Press the '<'** on the bottom left of the screen

13. It should take you to the Stop Motion Studio Home page. Press the **SELECT button** on the top right of the screen.
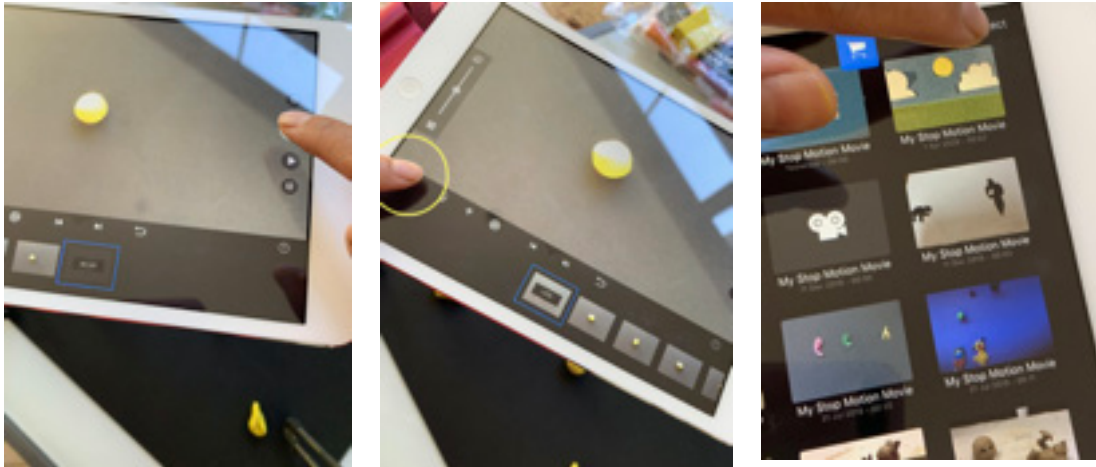
14. Select your movie

15. Press the **Export button** (the square with an up arrow) and press **Export Movie**

16. Press **SAVE video**. It'll take a few seconds to a few minutes to save

17. That's It! It's all saved on your smart phone/ tablet. You have made your first clay animation! Well done! Don't forget to share online by tagging #CPACCreatives on social media or sending your finished video to **ppe@casulapowerhouse.com**
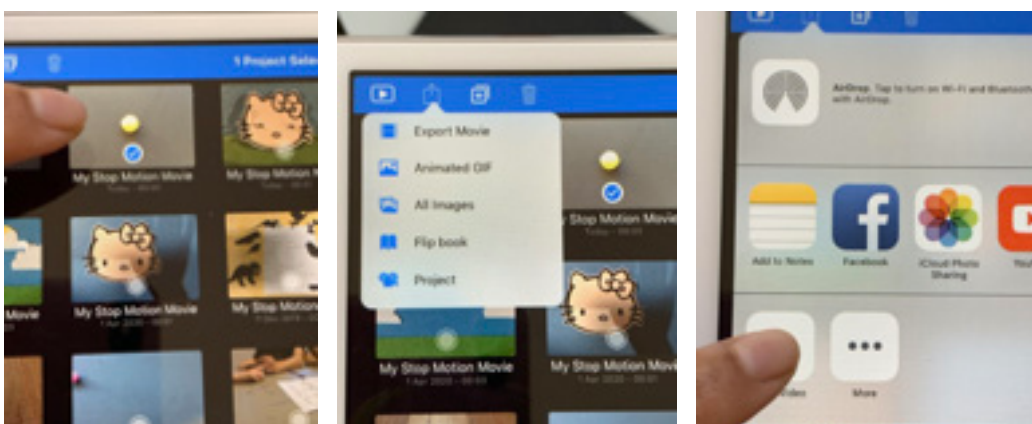
A few notes to consider when creating future animations:

The Stop Motion Studio App Editing Function - plenty to play and experiment with!

You can view this by pressing the cog button:
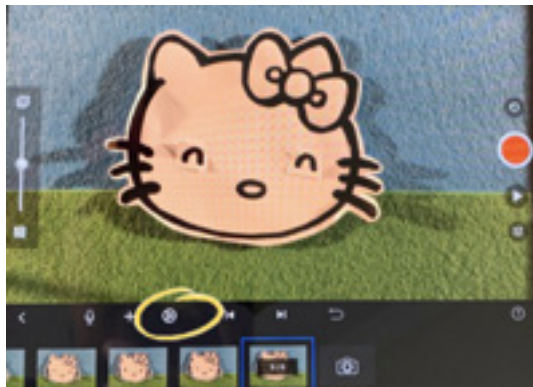
- Frame rate of how slow or fast it records
- Fade ins/fade outs
- Changing Aspect ratios
- Adding foregrounds/backgrounds to import (some are locked on the app may be an in app purchase. Please ask your guardian if you can use this function)
- Adding filters
- Editing and adding/deleting shots

To create more complex films:
- Use a Story board to plan out your shots (template below – enlarge when printing to fit the page)
- Write a Script if you want several characters or objects
- consider your location and design accordingly
- Get your home involved! When in isolation it's fun to share and play together

Be creative! Clay is malleable and super fun to create weird shapes with. You can also make doll-like figurines of your fav characters!

Be aware of your lighting as shadows can ruin your animation if your room is too dark. Filming during the day is PERFECT!

RESEARCH! EXPERIMENT! PLAY! Youtube has a great collection of stop-motion videos you can watch for free!

TIPS with PLASTICINE

- Plasticine is incredibly greasy. Always cover work surface to prevent making things messy.

- When using a new colour, WASH YOUR HANDS so the colours don't contaminate each other e.g. when using black, and wanting to use white after, wash your hands before working on the white to keep the white clean

- There are a variety of moulding tools out there to get interesting textures and to aid in making your creation how you want them to be! Tools also keep your hands and your creation clean!

- Please send any amazing stop motion videos, links, comments or questions to **ppe@casulapowerhouse.com**

Video StoryBoard Template

Project: _____   Page: _____

ARTIST TO RESEARCH: Otmar Gutmann

Otmar Gutmann is a German artist who created the popular children's TV series, Pingu. The show followed the day in the life of Pingu, an adventurous and naughty little penguin who lived with his friends and family in the Antarctic. Gutmann was interested in creating the characters of Pingu without a spoken language, so that the episodes were universal to all cultures and relied heavily on the Claymation - its emotions and movement.

QUESTIONS:

1. Pingu and all the characters don't speak any identified spoken languages, but rather all they made 'babbling' sounds that expressed their language in the show. The artist was more keen on the expressions and movement of his characters. Look carefully at each image and write down what emotion you think Pingu is trying to portray:

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2. Using the same images, describe the different ways the artist moved the clay to portray each emotion.

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3. Imagine you are a Claymation director. Write a story of a character and their daily life. Where is it set in? Who are the characters? What would they do? How is it different to other Claymation animations out there?

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