

Lights, Camera, Action!

Kia ora explorers!

It's time to get creative and tell a story! Your task is to plan and shoot a movie. We've included lots of resources here to help you come up with ideas to make an amazing and entertaining stop motion movie.



Stop motion animation is a fun and easy way to create a movie. You can use a camera, webcam, phone or tablet to take photos of the scene gradually changing. There are heaps of free or inexpensive apps for phones and tablets too, just have a quick look on AppStore or GooglePlay!

A good story is the backbone of an entertaining movie. Good stories have:

- A beginning, in which the scene and characters are introduced.
- A middle, in which an event or problem occurs.
- An end, in which the problem or event is resolved

Use the following pages to describe your characters (the people in your story) and develop a plot (the main events of your story and the order they happen in).

DEVELOPING A CHARACTER

Good stories need well developed characters. Think carefully about the ideas below to help invent an interesting hero to be the main character of your story.

Name of your character:

Age of your character:

Gender of your character:

What is their job?

Do they have a pet?

Who is their best friend?

What is their favourite food?

What does your character look like?
(Draw a picture or describe every part of your character—hair, eyes, what sort of clothes they wear...)

Lights, Camera, Action!

Describe your character's personality. (Are they quiet or loud? Are they daring or timid? Friendly or reserved?)

Who is in their family?

Where do they live? (City, country, castle, haunted house, apartment, jungle, tent, house, etc.)

What is one thing your character wants more than anything else?

What is their most annoying habit?

What do they do to relax?

What is a special skill or talent they have?





Lights, Camera, Action!

PLANNING A PLOT

Good stories need a plot that is easy to follow. This means that all the events in your story need to happen for a reason and occur in an order that makes sense. The best way to do this is to have your main character experience some kind of problem or conflict that they have to deal with. Think about the following...

BEGINNING:

Where?

Who?

What?

When?

MIDDLE:

A problem...

Who?

What now?

Where now?

Why?

END:

The problem is solved by...

What now?

What does the character learn or how do they change?

Extra for experts:

You've put lots of effort into describing your main character, the hero of your story. However, there are a couple of other important characters you need to think about.



- Every hero needs a **sidekick**! Fill out another character profile to describe someone who will help your hero solve the problem.
- Who better to add conflict to your story than a **villain**? Fill out another character profile to describe someone who will cause a problem for your hero and their sidekick.



Lights, Camera, Action!

Great work! Now you have all the ingredients for an interesting story, it's time to think about how you will turn them into a movie.

A **storyboard** is a really useful tool for planning a movie. It helps you to think about how to tell your story in pictures. Before you fill in your storyboard, do a bit of **research** into how and why movie makers use the camera in different ways.

GLOSSARY

Explain the following common camera shots and movements in your own words:

Long shot

Medium shot

Close-up shot

Pan

Tilt

Zoom

When might you pan the camera?

What type of shot is best for showing a conversation between two characters?

What shot would you use to highlight a torn glove?

WHAT IS A STORYBOARD?

A storyboard is a series of drawings (and notes) to show all the main events of a story in the right order. These drawings don't have to be expert artwork, but must show all the really important things you plan to include in your movie.

Some things to think about to get you started:

Where is your opening scene?

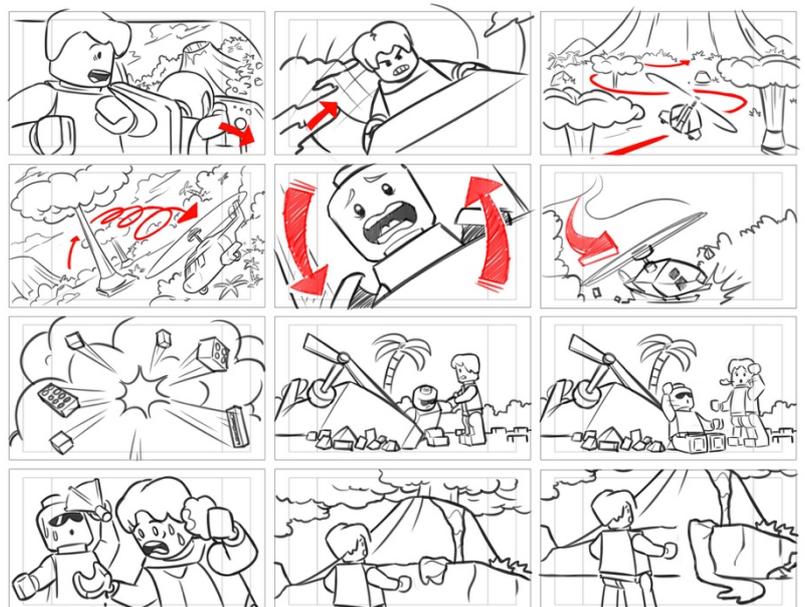
What characters are there?

What actions take place? Which items or colours are important?

Sketch the scenes for your movie in the grid on the following page. You should manage to fill at least one page and you can print the grid as many times as you need to complete your whole story! Under each drawing, note the main thing(s) happening at this point in your story.

Extra for experts:

Under each drawing, add the shot type you plan to use when you film the movie.



Lights, Camera, Action!

Shot type:	Shot type:
Main event(s):	Main event(s):
Shot type:	Shot type:
Main event(s):	Main event(s):
Shot type:	Shot type:
Main event(s):	Main event(s):

After all that planning, there is just one more thing to be done...

MAKE YOUR MOVIE!



Obviously, we recommend building everything you will need to appear in your movie using LEGO. But actually, you can work with whatever art and craft materials and other toys or figurines you happen to have available.

Remember, there are heaps of free or inexpensive stop motion movie making apps for phones and tablets, just have a quick look on AppStore or GooglePlay! There are also lots of great tutorials you can watch on YouTube to perfect your stop motion animation technique!

Lastly, we'd love to see what you come up with! Either tag us on social media if you post what you have created, or email your movie to us at:

education@imagination-station.org.nz