Piximakey – Moving nature

(Natural processes in stop-motion)

With Piximakey Education, you can get started with stop-motion quickly and easily. This beautiful wooden case is packed with equipment, so it only takes a few minutes to set up a scene.

In this lesson, students create a stop-motion film of a natural process. They investigate step-by-step how something changes in nature and bring it to life using clay, scenery, and animation.

Learning objectives

- Nature and Technology
- Orientation towards yourself and the world
- Artistic orientation
- 21st-century skills:
  - Inquiry-based learning
  - Creative thinking and acting
  - To collaborate
  - Basic ICT skills

Supplies

- Piximakey education animation studio
- Clay
- Craft materials (cardboard, paper, markers, scissors, glue)
- Phone or tablet
- Optional: natural materials (stones, twigs, leaves, sand)
- Optional: colored lamps or filters
- Paper for drawings and diagrams

Duration and structure of the lesson

Duration: 2–3 lessons of 45–60 minutes

Students learn how natural processes work and how to represent them step-by-step in a stop-motion film. They develop investigative and creative skills and learn to work patiently and accurately.

1. Introduction

Tell the students that today they are going to investigate a nature process and make a stop-motion film of it. Discuss together:

- What is a process?
- Give examples of natural processes.
- Why does nature change?
- Can you show a change in several small steps?

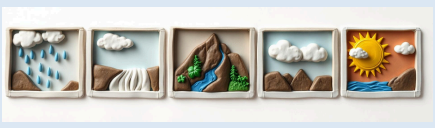
Show short example videos of stop-motion processes (e.g., a growing plant).

Examples of natural processes

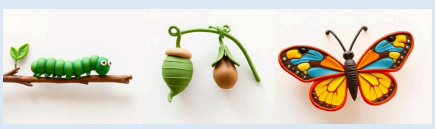
Choose a process that can be easily divided into steps. Below you will see a few ideas.

Growth of a plant

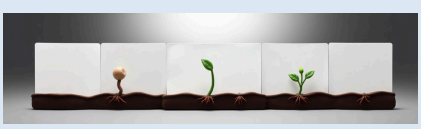
The water cycle



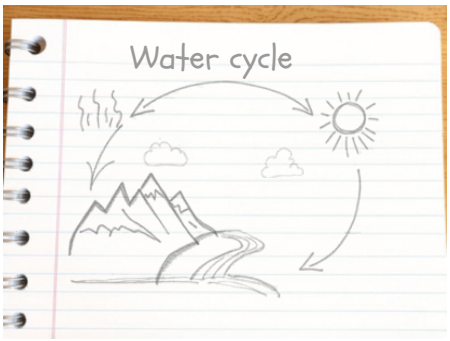
Caterpillar into butterfly



Germination of a bean



2. Investigate the process



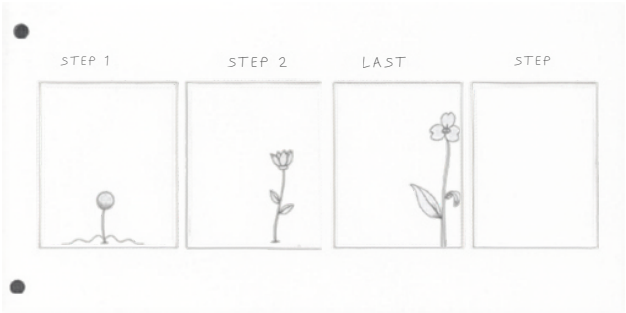
Have students choose a nature process in small groups.

Have them gather information:

- How does it start?
- What happens next?
- How does it end?

Let them use sources such as books, videos, or the internet (under supervision). Have students draw their process or write it down schematically in steps.

3. Experimenting with perspective



Each step in the process becomes one scene in the film.

Have students create a storyboard:

- Step 1: start
- Step 2: change
- .....
- Final step: result

Draw what happens in each scene. Also think about colors for each step and any effects (rain, sun, wind).

4. Decor and preparation

Build the scenery and characters (if necessary). Create a scene for each step of the process.

Tips:

- Use cardboard, paper, and clay to create the environment.
- Ensure that each decor clearly fits that step.
- Make all elements sturdy and stable.
- First, check if everything is clearly visible on the screen.

5. The movie

The students are going to make their stop-motion film.

Special attention to:

- The camera remains stationary on the tripod.
- Move objects a small amount at a time and take a photo after each movement.
- Work step by step according to the storyboard.

6. Conclusion

Watch the videos together in class.

Discuss:

- What have you learned about this natural process?
- What went well during the making of the film?
- What would you do differently next time?