



## Clay Animation

FETC Presentation: [www.blountk12.org/fetc/fetc.html](http://www.blountk12.org/fetc/fetc.html)

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# Clay Animation

## What is Clay Animation?

Nothing engages students more than bringing their creations to life with clay animation. Using a **Clay Animation Kit** from **Tech4Learning**, a little inspiration, a camera and a computer, your classroom will become an active learning environment. Students love using the **Clay Animation Kit** in cross-curricular group projects that incorporate writing and technology skills.

During the clay animation process, students work in teams to create clay characters and tell a story. That story could be an historical event, a chemical process, a fiction story, or just about any curriculum activity. Pictures of the clay objects are taken with a digital camera. The pictures are put together to create a movie using the computer. These movies can be used alone, added to a web page, or inserted into a multimedia project such as a PowerPoint presentation or a HyperStudio stack.

## Order the Clay Animation Kit

The **Clay Animation Kit *Second Edition*** includes clay, modeling tools, accessories, step-by-step instructions, and the **Spin PhotoObject** software needed to create movies with the clay characters. The kit is available from **Tech4Learning** at:

<http://www.tech4learning.com/ClayKit/index.html>

## Planning a Clay Animation Project

- Help students plan their projects.
- Resources for planning can be found at the **Tech4Learning** web site under **Clay Animation Classroom Management** or:  
<http://www.tech4learning.com/ClayKit/process.html>
- The **Clay Animation Project Vision** and a **Clay Animation Project Storyboard** are in **PDF** format and can be printed out.

## Materials for Objects (some of these items are included in the kit)

- Modeling clay
- Clay tools
- Paper Clips for armatures or
- Florist wire, wire cutters and protective goggles
- Toothpicks
- Scissors
- Assorted items to add to clay sculpture, such as yarn, google eyes, feathers, pipe cleaners, beads, sequins, etc.

## Creating and Animating the Clay Objects

- Teach students both the *Additive* (adding small parts onto a larger part) and *Subtractive* (shape parts from the original) methods of sculpture.
- Arrange the clay objects into scenes that tell the story.
- Backgrounds can be created using construction paper, glue, etc.
- Use a black cloth for Quick Time Movie Object – QTVR (allows mouse manipulation to move the picture).
- Take pictures of each scene using a digital camera.
- Tips for taking pictures can be found on the **Tech4Learning** web site under **QuickStart** pull-down menu – **Snacks** under **Choose Application** menu pull-down **Digital Cameras**.

<http://www.tech4learning.com/snacks/mavica.html>

- On the **Digital Cameras** page, there are two links to help you with taking digital pictures (Sony Mavica Tips for Animation) or transferring pictures to your computer (Transferring Files from a Camera to a Computer – a **PDF** file).



## Equipment Needs

- Digital Camera
- Tripod
- Carousel projector (for Quick Time Movie Object - QTVR)

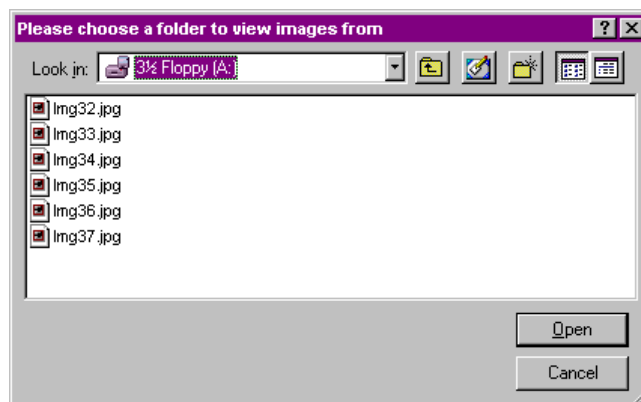
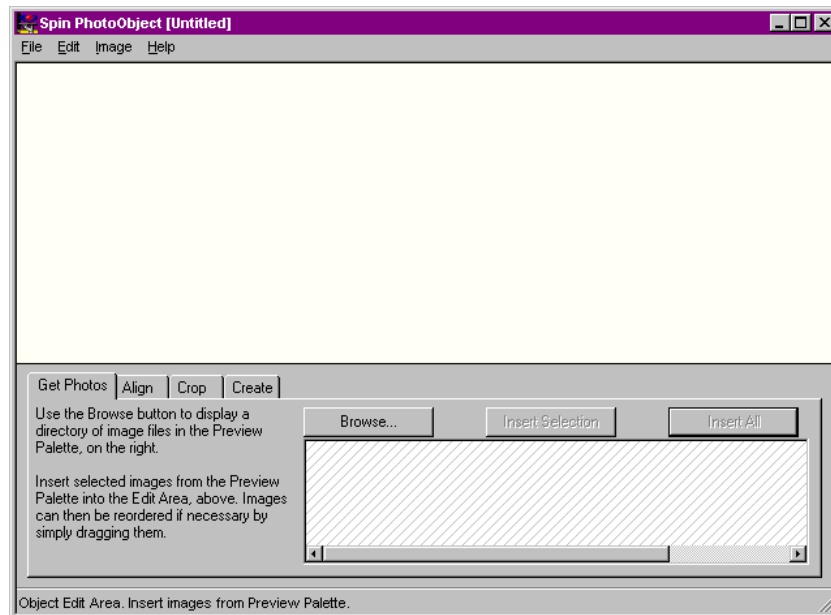
## Installing the Software

- Be sure all programs are closed.
- Insert the **Spin Photo Object** CD.
- When it loads, click on **Install: Spin Photo Object**. Do not install HyperStudio or any other programs.
- Click **Yes** and **Next** all the way through. Do not open the **Read Me** files so uncheck those boxes and click **Finish**.

- Once the screen reopens, an icon appears that looks like a basketball floating with a red arrow around it. Click and drag this icon to the desktop.

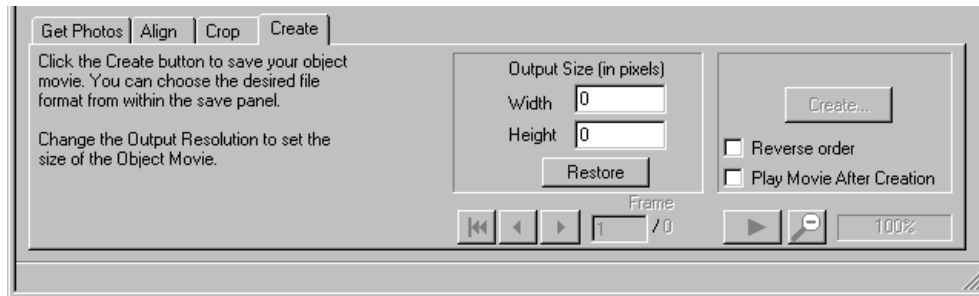
## Using the Software

- Open **SpinPhoto Object** by clicking its icon. Let it boot up. Note the four tabs in the bottom half of the window. At the first tab, **Get Photos**, click on browse to find your photos. Photos will be on the **A:** drive if they have been saved to a floppy disc, or they may have been saved to a folder on the desktop. Then click **Open**. Select the ones you want and click **Insert Selected** or click **Insert All** to choose all your pictures.



- Click the **Align** tab. Do not make any choices here unless you are doing a 360-degree spin, such as for a student sculpture that you would want to rotate in a circular mode.

- Click the **Crop** tab. Click the magnifying glass to fit a picture to the screen. What you crop will affect all of the photos the same way. Once you crop, be sure to play your object to see if anything had been cut off or left out of the frame. Click the arrow to see it play.
- Click the **Create** tab. The size can be changed at this point. If you change the width, it will proportionately change the height. It is better to make the width 450 or less. When you click **Create**, a **Save** box will appear. A folder on the desktop is always easy to find. If you plan to put your movie in a **PowerPoint** or **HyperStudio**, be sure to save it in the same folder. In the last box, **Save As**, there are three choices. Choose **Quick Time Photo Object** if you want to be able to manipulate with your movie with the mouse. Do not choose **Quick Time Movie**. It will play too fast unless you have many photos. The choice for clay animation is **AVI Movie**. It will allow you to change the speed of the frames per second.



- It will take a moment to save this so be patient and give your mind a rest.
- The movie can be added to a **PowerPoint** or **HyperStudio** project, or to other programs, including a web page. For more information on adding a movie to a **PowerPoint** presentation, go to the following web site:  
<http://www.tech4learning.com/snacks/powerpoint.html>
- These movies can be played using **Media Player** or **QuickTime**. If these programs are not on your computer, they can be downloaded free from the Internet.

To order the Clay Animation Kit *Second Addition*, go to:

<http://www.tech4learning.com/ClayKit/index.html>

Samples of Clay Animation and Tutorials from Blount County Schools can be found on the Blount County Schools Technology Training page at:

<http://www.blountk12.org/techdept/techtraining.htm#Clay>