Clay Animation Teacher's Guide

In the Clay Animation field trip, students learn the basics of character building, stop-motion filmmaking, and storytelling through the animation process. Below you'll learn what you can expect before, during, and after your field trip including ways to prepare and ways to take your experiences back to your classroom.

Before your visit:

- **Conduct a story brainstorm with your class**: Brainstorm examples of the 3P's of storytelling with your class on the board. The 3P's include a Person (character), a Place where your movie will be set, and a Problem that character(s) must overcome.
- **Students design their characters:** Have each student design their own character using the Character Development Handout (see attached).
- **Split students into small groups:** 4-5 students per group and a maximum of 6 groups.
- **Develop group stories:** Have each group pick the 3P's for their story using the class brainstorm as inspiration.
- **Have groups create a storyboard:** Have each group use the Storyboard Handout (see attached) to plan the progression of their film.

During your visit:

- **Check-in:** 10 minutes before the start of your trip, please have students wait outside on the courtyard steps across from the museum and come inside to check in at the front desk.
- **Warm-Up:** Museum Educators will lead your class to the Animation Studio and facilitate a creative group warm-up.
- **Character building:** Students will begin by building their clay characters. Use the Character Development Handout as a pre-activity (see attached).
- **Animating:** In their groups, students will film their stop-motion animations.
- **Film Festival:** Once finished, there will be a screening of each group's animated film. Please note, if arriving late or leaving early from a field trip, this step can be eliminated.
- **Debrief:** The field trip will end with an all-class debrief of the experience.

Pre/Post Activities and Resources:

Create your own simple animation machines:

- Flipbooks: www2.scholastic.com/browse/subarticle.jsp?id=3227

- Thaumatropes: http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Thaumatrope
- Zoetropes: http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Zoetrope

Create an animation film with iStopmotion:

- We use iStopmotion to create our animations at the Children's Creativity Museum. Learn more about curriculum connections and purchasing educational licenses here: http://boinx.com/istopmotion/education/
- Look here for a list of the types of cameras supported by iStopmotion: http://www.boinx.com/istopmotion/support/inputdevices/

Do you have questions, concerns, or comments about your field trip?
Please email Kelly at **kreina@creativity.org** or call **(415) 820-3327.**