

Introduction

Incorporating stop motion into a science lesson is a great way for students to demonstrate their understanding of the information they have been taught and for you to consolidate the learning.

Idea 1 - Animating the Nitrogen Cycle

1. The students create a stop motion animation on the Nitrogen Cycle.
2. Cover the Nitrogen Cycle in class.
3. As homework, ask the pupils to create notes on what they have learned.
4. In the next lesson, divide the students into groups of three or four. Give the pupils the task of creating a stop motion animation of the Nitrogen Cycle, using their homework notes as reference. Provide the pupils with a variety of materials to choose from to make the props for the animation e.g. Plasticine, paper.
5. Group work will encourage the students to expand and develop their teamwork skills. Each team member should be encouraged to share their views, opinions and constructive criticism. This will help students increase their knowledge on the subject.
6. Once the task is completed, watch the animations as a class and encourage a class review based on preset criteria.

Using stop motion to teach this topic will help push pupils to think deeper. As they are actively animating the Nitrogen Cycle sequence, they are constantly having to think about what they have learned and to demonstrate their understanding. Working in groups will allow pupils to gain valuable teamwork skills which can be used in everyday situations.

This lesson plan can be easily repeated in an array of other science topics. Following the same formula you can get pupils to animate the process of protein synthesis, DNA replication, mitosis or any other process you can think of. You can use Plasticine, Playdoh or any other materials your class would like to try.



Idea 2 - Animation of Plant Growth

Pupils create an animation of the stages of plant growth.

1. Cover the topic in class. Ask the pupils to create notes on the information they have been taught.
2. Split the pupils into groups of 2 or 3. Using the notes they have created, ask the pupils to create a paper animation of the stages of plant growth.
3. Provide the pupils with coloured paper, which they can use to design and cut out shapes to animate.
4. Provide a set of criteria for their animation e.g. create a beginning, middle and ending to the animation based on the stages of plant growth.

Once animations are completed, view the videos and assess the information learned by each pupil.

