

Introduction

Chemistry introduces children to a world of facts and processes that they must grasp successfully in order to effectively build their knowledge as the curriculum progresses. Because stop motion animation is the ideal way to really ingrain deeper learning, it is a great way to help children tackle what are often tricky concepts.

Idea - Animating Atoms

1. Cover the topic in class and encourage each pupil to make notes which will be used as a basis for their animations.
2. Split the students into groups of 2 and 3, and provide each group with a large sheet of white paper to be used as the background for their animation. The parts of the atoms can be represented by anything you find appropriate. You can use pieces of LEGO, coins or small plastic circles, all of which are easy and effective to animate with.
3. Ask the students to animate the information they have been taught, using their notes for reference. You can create a set of criteria that you wish to see e.g. the formation, location and direction of the atoms, electrons, protons, and neutrons.
4. Watch the animations as a class, encouraging each group to present their findings. Discuss and review.

This is a really simple animation for students to create but it is extremely worthwhile. Not only is this a fun way to reaffirm the knowledge they have learned, it will also help to promote deeper learning.

