

Exploring Digital Animation

By [Jean Edwards](#).

In this introduction to digital animation, Jean Edwards shows us how children can use some of the tools available in the FlipaClip app to make a simple creature move across the screen.

Children often see the technique of animation used to bring stories to life. This can include stop motion animation, where real materials are moved in space and captured frame by frame by a tablet or camera. Within digital animation the action takes place on screen through a series of sequenced still digital images. In this activity digital animation on screen is used to bring simple drawings to life and make them move.

Resources needed:

Sketchbooks

Felt pens

Tablets and optional stylus (it is fine to use your finger to draw with)

App: FlipaClip.

A note on the FlipaClip app:

The FlipaClip app is a digital version of a flick book so it can be a useful introduction to have a play with flick books or make your own. The app is a simple to use digital animation tool and we are going to use the free version which will give us access to more than enough options and some room to go further in the future. As with any art resource it is useful for all adults working with children to have a go themselves. Watch the 'Getting started with FlipaClip' video available [here](#) and follow the introductory activity demonstrated in it as well as just having a play.

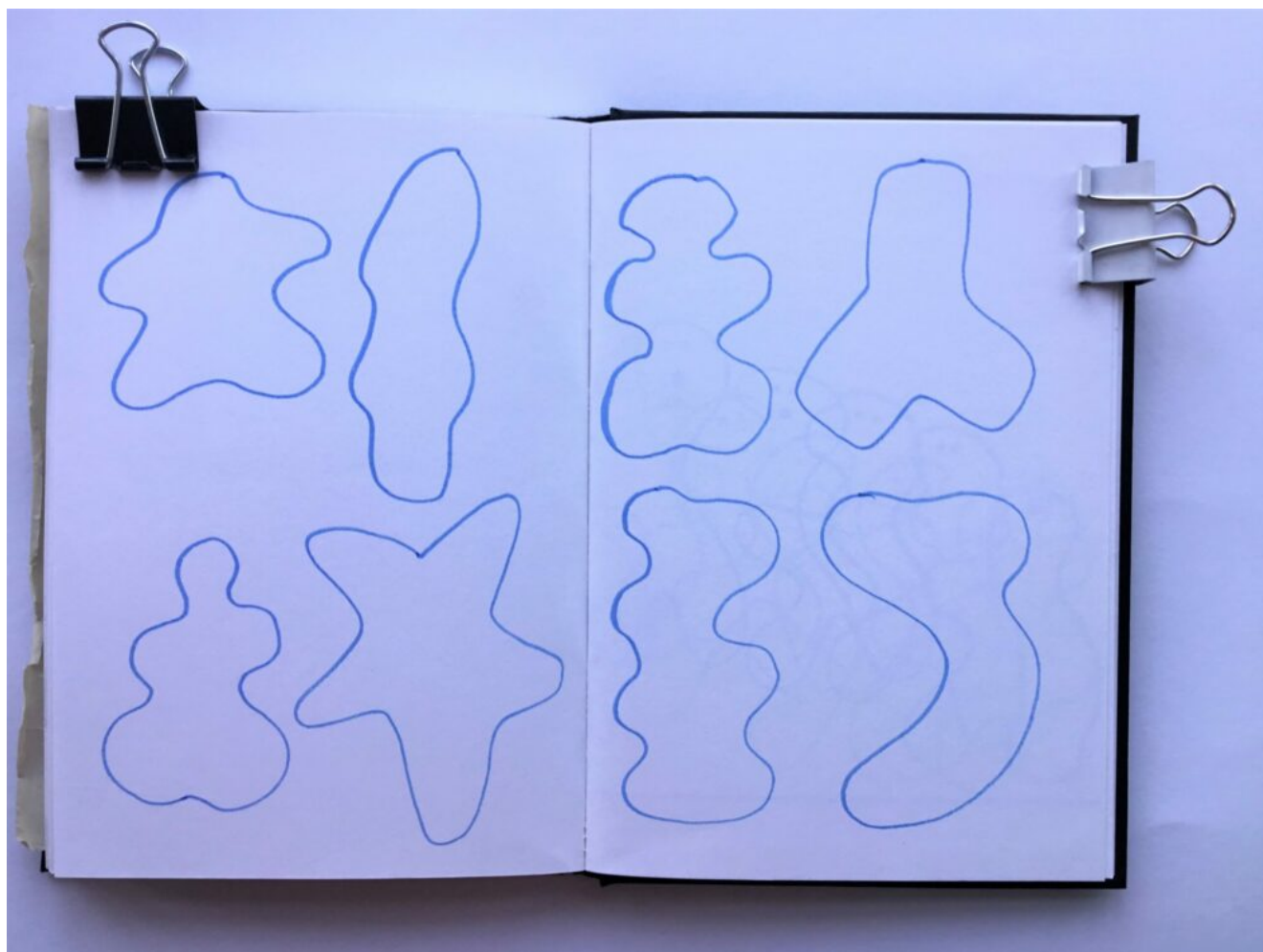
There are some screen by screen instructions [here](#):

Getting started with FlipaClip from Jean Edwards on Vimeo.

Introducing the idea and Preparing to animate:

We're going to make a simple creature based on a blob shape move so it's useful to have a go at sketching some simple blobby shapes in outline to develop ideas and establish a shape. Children could also make some decisions about the background colour and the colour of their creature before they use the app. This could be done in their sketchbooks using felt pens.

Here's an example from my sketchbook:



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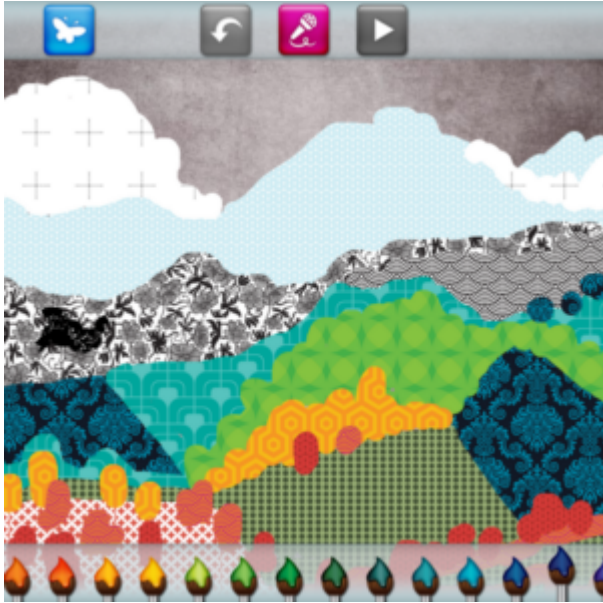


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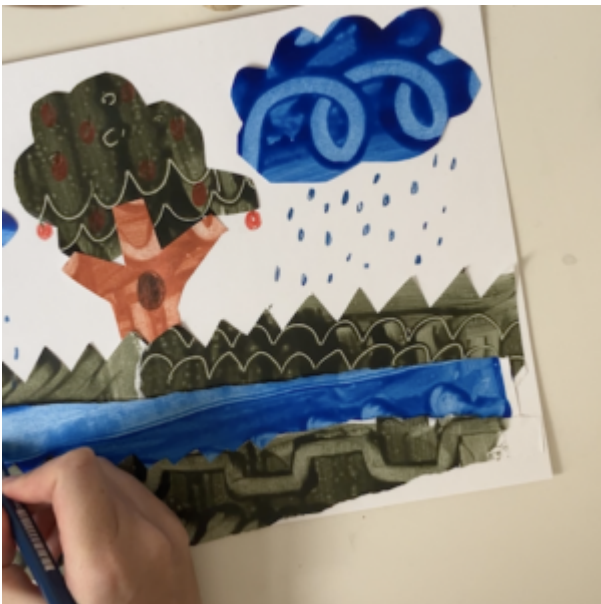
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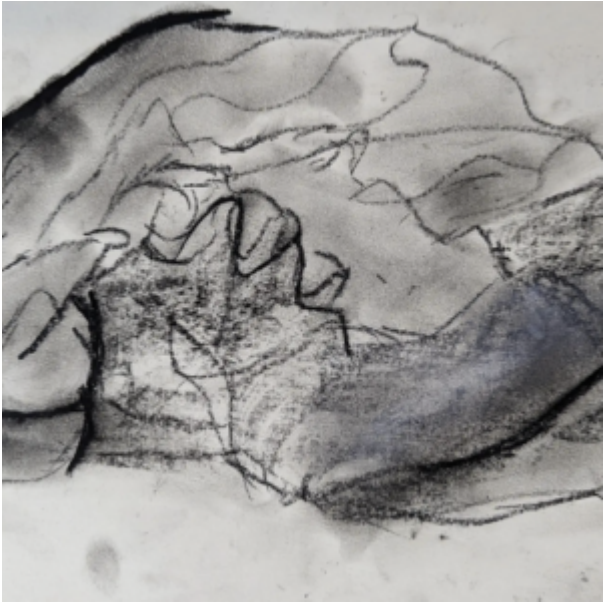
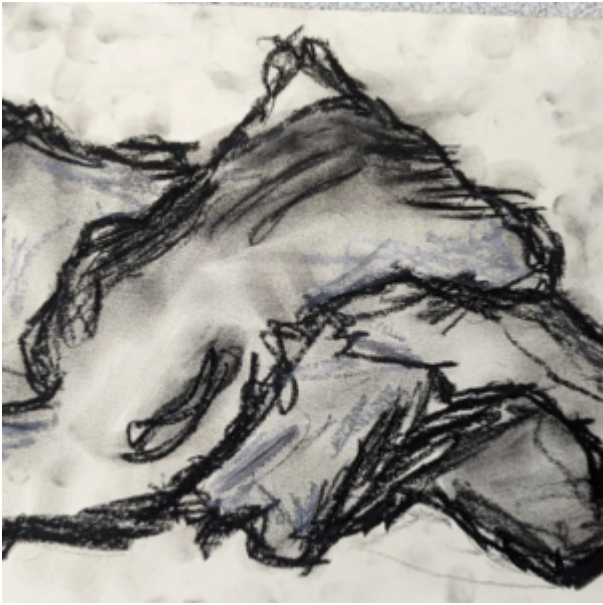
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Introduction to Chalk Pastels

Collecting Colour in my Moodboard Book

What We Like About This Resource...

"It's really nice to see that although Rachel Parker works quite digitally, her process from the beginning is very tactile. Rachels books act as a really great source of inspiration, helping to break down the creative blocks that we all get from time to time. Having a sketchbook dedicated to colour means that as well as working with colours that you already love, you can test new colour palettes and see colours from a new perspective. I especially love how Rachel picks up on the different tones in colours by looking at the way light hits it in order build her colour palette around those supporting tones as well as big statement colours." – Tobi, AccessArt

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Collecting Colour

What We Like About This Resource...

"It's great to see how a simple exercise such as colour collecting, which can be done in a classroom setting, is also used in a professional capacity. This gives the activity a clear context and purpose. It's nice to see Rachel's decisions being made in real time, it demonstrates how artists are constantly reflecting on and self evaluating their own decisions. Rachel also shows us that she sometimes gets colour palettes from photos that she's taken herself, this is really exciting because it demonstrates how the artists experience is central to their work. Students will be able to bring their own experience and personality to this activity by having complete control over what their colour moodboard becomes."
– Tobi, AccessArt

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How Colour Collection Inspires My Work

What We Like About This Resource...

“Rachel’s work is so vibrant and full of joy, it’s really exciting to see how she starts to form creative ideas around colour. Rachel highlights the importance of colour trends but also gives herself the opportunity to create her own trends which adds a level of playfulness and personality to her colour exploration. Seeing her colour books translate into fabric demonstrates a real clarity in her decision making process.” – Tobi, AccessArt.

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Escaping Wars and Waves – Encounters with Syrian Refugees

What We Like About This Resource...

‘This resource really demonstrates how art can successfully bring awareness to important humanitarian issues, promote inclusivity and can give a platform to those who otherwise wouldn’t be heard. The links between text, photos and drawings are really strong and demonstrate the creative process used by Olivier from start to finish. I really like the inclusion of suggestions for students within the post, which encourage students to learn more about their community and to understand the experience of being displaced. This in turn will hopefully inspire the next generation to be part of an inclusive and empathetic society.’ – Tobi, AccessArt