

# Stop-Action Animation with PowerPoint

By Lorrie Jackson

## WHY A TECHTORIAL?

### What will I learn today?

You will learn how to create stop-action animation.

### What hardware and/or software does the techtorial apply to?

The techtorial requires PowerPoint and a drawing program (PC or Mac).

### Which National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers does the techtorial address?

The techtorial will help teachers accomplish standard IIIc in particular.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has developed a set of National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. Standards or Performance Indicators are included for each techtorial to help teachers and administrators improve technology proficiency. For a complete description of the standards indicated, go to [NETS for Teachers](#).

## STOP ACTION ANIMATION WITH POWERPOINT

Remember flip books -- a series of drawings in which each page contains a picture of a man or a horse, with each drawing just a bit different, so when the pages are flipped quickly, the man seems to be jumping or the horse appears to be running? Flip books -- in which non-moving images appear to move -- are examples of [stop-action animation](#).

With the popularity of cartoon shows and movies, it's no surprise that creating animation, stop action or otherwise, is one of the tech topics most requested by K-12 students. The traditional animation, however, requires money for specialized software, time to plan and execute detailed projects, and advanced know how by both teachers and students.

Don't let that stop you! Basic stop-action animation *can* be created in little time by almost any student or teacher. Don't believe me? Take a look at some of the crazy animations created by students at [R.W. Emerson Junior High School](#) in Davis, California. The animations were created with a program called [Corel Paint Shop Pro](#), a relatively inexpensive and easy-to-use program. You, however, don't need to spend a dime to make similar animations.

## WHAT YOU NEED

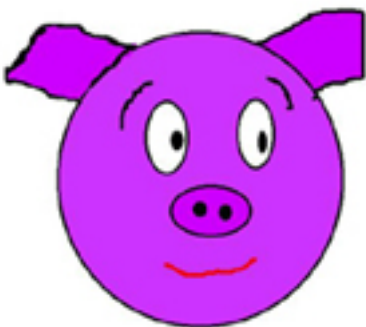
- Microsoft [PowerPoint](#) (Mac or PC). Apple's [Keynote](#) program or [Open Office's Impress](#) also will work -- with a few adaptations. Most K-12 classrooms already have access to one of those programs.
- Any drawing program that allows users to save drawings in either .jpg or .bmp format. Don't have a drawing program? No problem! PC users and Mac OS X users can use the freeware program [Tux Paint](#). Educators who have [AppleWorks](#) can use it to both draw the images and create the pages for the images. If your school doesn't allow you to install programs and all you have access to is Office, no problem. Drawings can be done in Excel and then copied and pasted into PowerPoint.

That's it! Let's get started!

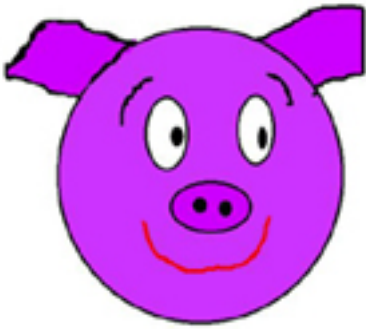
## STEP ONE: DRAW THE IMAGES

Follow -- or invite students to follow -- the directions below:

- Open the drawing program -- KidPix, TuxPaint, AppleWorks, Excel.... (Remember, the only stipulation for the drawing program you use is that you are able to save images either in .jpg or .bmp format, or to copy and paste from the drawing program into PowerPoint.)
- Create a basic image -- the first picture in the "flip book." For this example, we'll draw a pig that's about to laugh at a joke. So, for the first picture, draw a pig with an emotionless smile.



- Click Save and save the image as "pig1.jpg." Be sure to include the number 1 in the file name or you'll have a hard time organizing the animation later.
- Draw another pig identical to the first one, but this time, widen the smile just a little bit. (The smaller each change is, the smoother the final movements will be.)
- Click Save As and name the file "pig2.jpg."

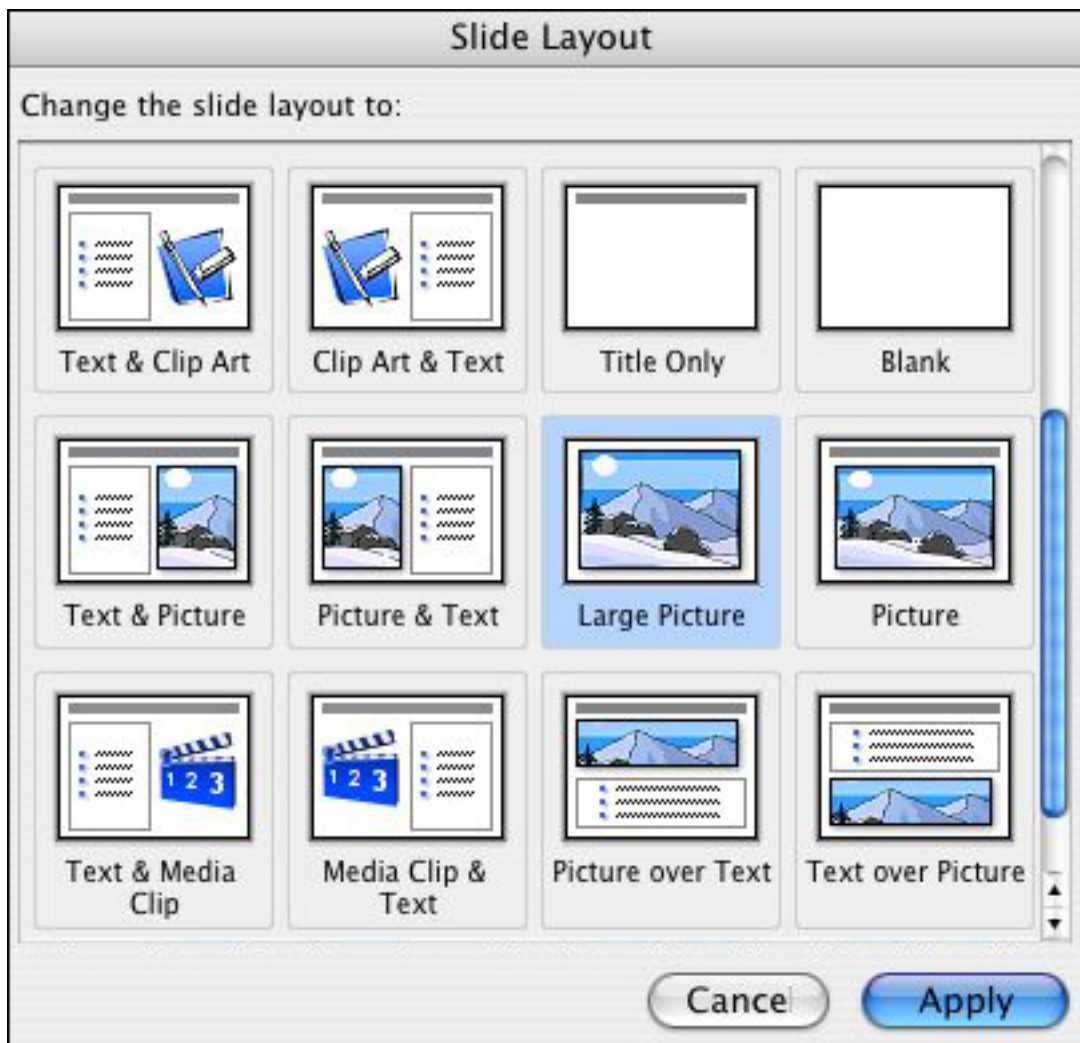


- Repeat the steps above -- making a small change and saving each drawing as a new file -- until you've created six (or more) images.

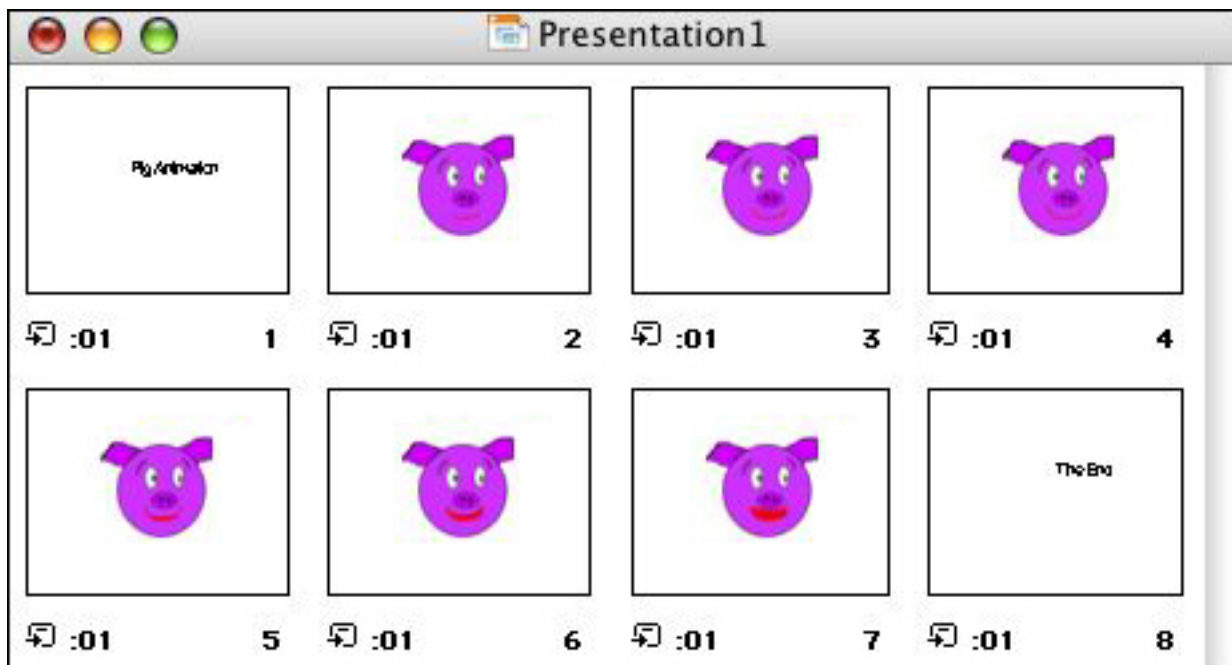
## **STEP TWO: MAKE YOUR FLIP BOOK**

We've got the pictures, now we need the book!

- Open PowerPoint.
- On the first slide, type a title -- such as "Pig Smile" -- and your name and the date.
- Click Insert > New Slide.
- Click Format > Slide Layout; click the layout called Large Picture; and then click Apply.



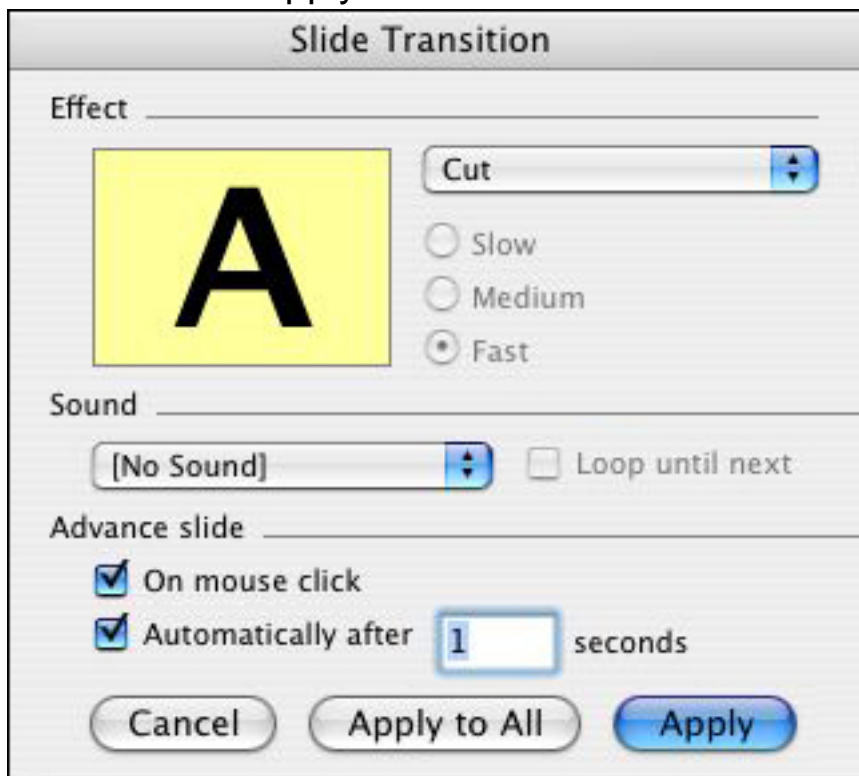
- Double-click "Double-click to add picture;" browse to select Pig1.jpg; and then click Insert.
- Click Insert > New Slide to make a new page; double-click on the page; and insert Pig2.jpg.
- Repeat the previous step until you have created seven slides -- a title slide and six picture slides with one picture on each slide.
- Click Insert > New Slide, and then click Format > Slide Layout. Scroll back up in the Slide Layout window (or pane) and choose Title Slide and Apply.
- Type "The End".
- You now have created eight slides. Click View > Slide Sorter, you should see something like this:



- Save your work!

## STEP THREE: ANIMATE!

- With PowerPoint still open, click Slide Show > Slide Transition.
- Select "Cut" and No Sound; click "Automatically after \_\_\_ seconds;" and type "1" in the box. Click Apply to All.



That's it. Want to see? Click Slide Show > View Show. You should see each page flip to the next page in one second, and your pig should slowly smile. Unfortunately, timing cannot be shorter than one second in PowerPoint, but other

programs might allow you to shorten the time even more.

- Save your work.

Wow! Wasn't that easy? Remember, you can replicate those steps in a variety of other programs. Contact [the author](#) if you need help completing this techtorial using another software program.

## TIPS AND TRICKS

- As with most projects, planning is key. Have students consider and write out what they want to animate and why. That is especially key for longer projects in which images are doing more than smiling!
- If you only have access to Office, you wouldn't actually save each picture. Instead, you would create a picture in Excel (View > Toolbars > Drawing); click CTRL A (or Apple A) to select all; click the first icon on the drawing toolbar; and then select Group All. That would combine all the elements of your drawing (ears, nose, eyes, and so on) into one picture. Then it's just Edit > Copy, open PowerPoint, and Edit > Paste. When you're ready to make the next picture, go back to Excel; click the picture; select Ungroup to break up the elements again; make the edits; and then repeat the steps. Not hard but a bit time-consuming.
- Lesson plan ideas: Besides being a fun lesson for art, animation also can be used in language arts lessons. First, have students write the steps in Word or on paper. That helps with narrative writing and sequencing. You also can practice storyboarding concepts with this activity.

## TELL ME MORE

### Where can I find more information?

Never thought PowerPoint could be so versatile? Well, find out what else PowerPoint can do by checking out the [Techtorial table of contents!](#)