

The H.O.T. Spot

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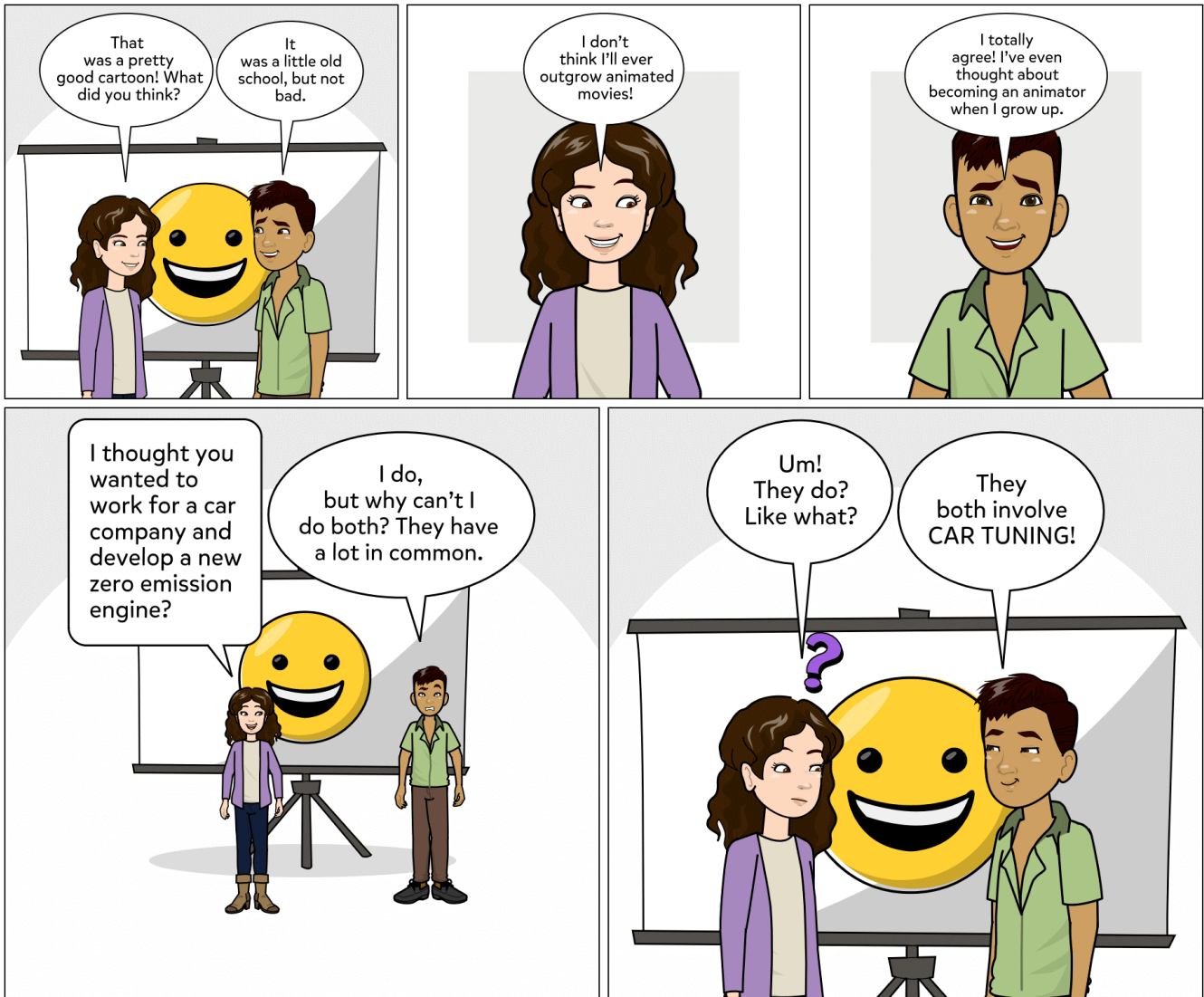
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Issue #9 (August 25, 2020)

CAUTION: Participation may lead to a lack of boredom and a tired brain!

FEATURED TOPIC THIS WEEK:

The Evolution of Animation





The Evolution of Animation

Did You Know?

The word *animation* in French literally means “soul”. The process of animation is therefore adding a soul, personality, or heart to a drawing or sketch. There are three broad types of animation: traditional (using drawings), stop motion, and computer generated. *Toy Story* was the first full-length computer generated 3D cartoon ever. ***FUN FACT:*** Have you ever noticed many cartoon characters only have four fingers? This saves animators millions of dollars due to the time saved during creation.

Help Wanted

A person who creates animated films is called an animator. Other options within this field are storyboard creators, background artists, voice acting, and video game designers.

Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree in computer animation, fine arts, or graphic arts
- Build a portfolio or demo reel

Necessary Skills

- Creative and artistic
- Communication and time management
- Proficient at using computer animation software

Daily Tasks

- Create and draw characters
- Work closely with directors and other animators

Bio-Profile



Walt Disney is now considered an American legend, but he didn’t start out that way. He dropped out of high school and almost sold vacuums for a living. Eventually, he was hired to co-create his first cartoon character named Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. His hard work paid off and his career soared from that point on!

Mystery Picture of the Week

What is special about this drawing? After doing your research, turn your paper upside down to check your answer.



What you are looking at is a scene from the first ever cartoon. It was created in 1908 by the French artist Emile Cohl. You can watch the short cartoon called *Fantasmagorie* by clicking the link below:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYTYNZUd3hQ&vl=en

Virtual Field Trip

Explore the Pixar Animation Studios:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXtsEhUwTmc

Would You Rather

Watch Claymation, Japanese Anime, or a 3D Pixar Film



What do you think the featured topic should be next week? Email your teacher with your thoughts.

Project-Based Bonanza

Choose one or more of the projects below to complete this week.

CHOICE A

Explore the history of animation by going to the following website:

<https://history-of-animation.webflow.io/>

When you are finished, create a timeline or other visual display to highlight at least five major developments.

CHOICE B

Kahn Academy and Pixar have teamed up to create a free learning experience called "Pixar in a Box".

This fun simulation teaches you how Pixar creates their animated features. You can learn more by going to the following website:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/computing/pixar/start>

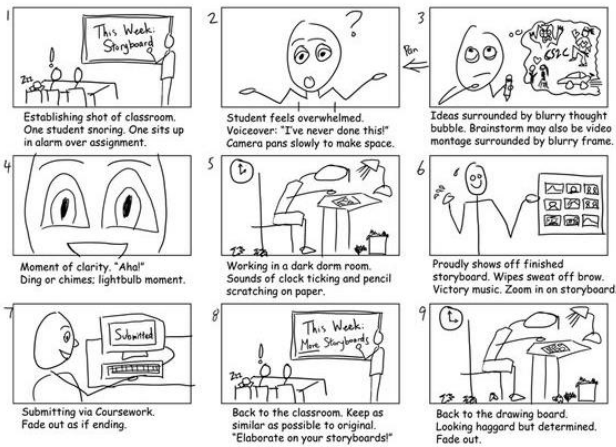
CHOICE C

Do you want to make your own animation using just a pencil, a 3x5 card, and tape?

- 1) Fold a 3x5 card in half (right to left)
- 2) Tape the new square closed on the left edge,
- 3) Draw a picture on one side (*example-* fish)
- 4) Draw a second picture on the other (*example-* fish bowl)
- 5) Tape the square on the end of your pencil like a lollipop
- 6) Roll the pencil quickly back in forth. WHAT HAPPENS?

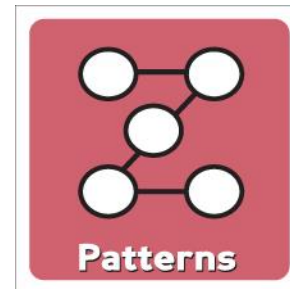
Storytelling 101

Storytelling does not always have to take the form of the written word. Animated cartoons tell a story using pictures and sounds. The process they use typically begins with a storyboard (or visual outline) of the plot. Take some time to create a storyboard for your own future animated cartoon! See the example here:



Digging Into Depth and Complexity

In past issues, we have learned about the Kaplan Depth and Complexity Model icons *unanswered questions, ethics, change over time, rules, trends, and multiple perspectives*. A seventh important icon is **patterns**.



This icon stands for an event, element, or idea that repeats in a predictable way. For example, many people see a pattern in Disney films like *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Aladdin*. Each movie is a musical, features a character who is longing for a change in their lives, and is helped along their journey by a funny, likeable sidekick.

Brain Teaser of the Week

Can you guess which animated film this represents?



Rank order your top three favorite animated movies of all time. Compare and contrast each one in order to identify any patterns that may be present. Talk to a friend or family member and see if you can find commonalities between their favorite animated movies and your own!