

Animate It, Part 1: Frames, Onion Skinning and Playback

40 minutes

Following My Interests Online

Outcome 3.8

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Students draw a bouncing ball frame by frame in Wick Editor, use onion skinning to place each frame, and play it back.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
3.8	create a digital montage on a specific topic of interest from images sourced online while applying learning regarding copyright, fair use, plagiarism, and intellectual property ownership

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Explain what a frame, a frame rate and onion skinning are
- Draw a sequence of frames that reads as movement
- Use onion skinning to place each frame against the last
- Play an animation back and fix jumpy or dragging spacing

BEFORE THE BELL

- Wick Editor needs no account and shows no adverts. Go to wickeditor.com and click Launch Web Editor. That is the whole set-up, which is why it was chosen for this pair of lessons.
- Wick keeps the work in the browser rather than on a server, so anything a student makes is gone once the tab closes. Say that at the start rather than at the end. The plan is that students leave the tab open and come back to the same project next lesson, when they organise it into layers and export it, so if your room has shared devices or the machines are logged out between classes, expect some students to rebuild their frames at the start of next lesson and tell them now so it is not a shock.
- Onion skinning is the idea that makes this lesson work. If a student is animating blind, drawing each frame with nothing faint behind it, check they have it switched on before they go any further.
- Around eight frames is enough for the movement to read on screen, so if someone is still perfecting frame one halfway through the period, move them on; they can refine later, but they cannot see a bounce until there is a sequence to play.
- Both hands-on steps carry an on-screen list of instructions that the students follow on their own devices. Project the same list at the front, call out the next control when the room is ready, and circulate to unstick anyone who has lost a panel or a button. Students work through the controls at their own pace rather than all together on the same click, so let the faster ones keep drawing while you help the rest.
- Devices with a browser. Wick Editor needs no account, but it keeps nothing once the tab closes.

WHAT YOU NEED

Item	Qty	Per	If you do not have it
Chromebook/Laptop/PC		student	
Wick Editor needs no account			Free, browser-based, no sign-up and no adverts. Work saves to the browser, not a server, so students must export before closing the tab.

Animate It, Part 1: Frames, Onion Skinning and Playback

HOW THE LESSON RUNS		
4 min	introduction	Start
4 min	content	Frames and frame rate
13 min	activity	Hands-on: Draw your first frames
13 min	activity	Hands-on: Onion skinning, then play it
4 min	content	Make sense
2 min	summary	What you covered