

Comet Stop Action Flip Book

Stop action animation is a series of pictures that when blended together create a “moving” picture. Draw your own comet traveling through space in a comet stop-action flipbook.

A comet is a small mass of frozen gases and debris, like a rocky snowball flying through space. A long time ago, comets were called disasters because they were thought to signal bad luck to come. The word disaster meant “evil star”.

Materials:

Pencils, graphite and colored

Premade flip book (available at art supply stores) or make your own with typing paper and a stapler

Directions for making your own flip book:

Cut ___pieces of typing paper into ____x____ pieces. Carefully line up the right hand side so the edges are perfectly aligned. Staple left hand edge. It doesn't matter so much if the stapled edge or top and bottom are even. The important thing is to get the edge you will be flipping perfectly even.

Directions for drawing your own flip book:

Beginning on the last page of your book, draw a comet at the left hand edge. Turn the page and draw it again over just a little bit (1/16”) so it looks as if it is starting to move across the sky. You should be able to see your last drawing through the thin pages. This will help you position the comet a little further over each time you make a new drawing. Turn the page again and draw it a little further over, repeat until you can see the back edge of the “snowball” and start drawing the tail behind at as it moves across the page. Continue drawing until you run out of pages. Draw the comet until the tail disappears out of sight. Go back and add color to your drawing if you wish. The head of a comet can appear to be a white to baby blue color. The extending tail of a comet can appear to be a dark blue, with shades of red and purple.

To flip your flip book:

Hold your flipbook on the non-stapled end. Pinch it between your thumb and forefinger. Slowly let the pages go one at a time so they move somewhat quickly, but you can still see each drawing that you made go by. The images should blend together to make a comet crossing the sky.

Other ideas for flip books: an eclipse of the moon or sun, a star going super nova, or the moon phases.