



# MAKER ED PRESENTS: LEARNING IN THE MAKING

## HOW TO MAKE A PAPER BOX MOTION STORY

### INTRODUCTION

This is not your average poster making assignment! This is the **Paper Box Motion Story**; a unique and interactive opportunity for students to make their learning visible using cardboard and some basic materials. The Paper Box Motion Story is like a tiny, manual movie theatre! It can be used to summarize information, share learned facts, and even create and tell fictional stories. There is so much room for the educator and student to make this project uniquely their own.

In our corresponding *Learning in the Making* episode, we are specifically learning all about the Hidden Figures, a.k.a. the first Black women of NASA. You can follow along with that video at our link in the lower right hand corner and use our text titled, *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly.

Additionally, the Paper Box Motion Story can be used and reused to tell many stories and teach many lessons across content areas. *Gently* pop off the current scroll and tape on a new one. Students will be empowered to share their learning with their peers and the supporting adults in their lives.

**How will you use the Paper Box Motion Story? What story will be told?**

### IN THIS ACTIVITY YOU WILL:

- ❑ Construct and design a Paper Box Motion Story
- ❑ Use text and images to make your learning and ideas visible



### Tools & Materials of Making

Get creative and use whatever materials you have available.

Here are some suggestions to start with:

- Rectangular cardboard box (an empty snack box would be perfect)
- Transparent covering (sheet protector, plastic wrap, or even a repurposed plastic food container)
- Two paper towel tubes or four tissue paper rolls
- Rubber bands
- 3-5 pieces of paper (as wide or wider than your cardboard box)
- Drawing materials (colored pencils, markers, paint, stickers)
- Colored cardstock paper (optional)
- **Tools:** Glue, Tape, Scissors, Pens, Pencils



### Subject

English Language Arts  
Design  
History



### Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2.A  
Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.4  
With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7  
Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.



### Grades

3-5th  
6-8th



Watch the video here:  
<http://bit.ly/LITM-motion-story-box>

# ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

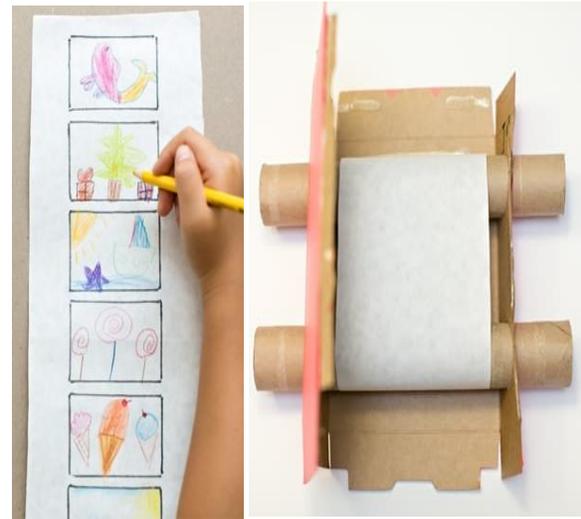


## 1. BUILD YOUR FRAME

- Flatten your box by cutting down one seam of the box.
- Your **Paper Box Motion Story** needs handles to turn and tell your story. On the narrow sides of your box cut 4 circles. This is where your paper towel tubes will be inserted for handles.
- Your **Paper Box Motion Story** needs a screen to show your story. On the long side of your cardboard box, make a rectangle that is about halfway the length of the box. Next, create a cover to go over your screen.

## 2. CREATE AND INSERT YOUR STORY

- Create a scroll for your story by taping or gluing 3-5 pieces of paper together. Your paper should be a little wider than your screen and able to fit without bending in your box.
- Create frames by measuring the size of your screen or tracing your screen onto your scroll. You or your teacher should decide how many frames it will take to tell your story. Your very first frame should be your title page and your last frame should be your conclusion. Use sentences and images to tell your story. Get creative!



- Add rubber bands to your paper towel rolls.
- Starting at one end of your paper, tape one end of the the paper to the end of the paper towel roll. Then roll the paper around the paper towel roll until you are almost at the end. Then tape the paper to the second paper towel roll. Make sure your story frames are visible!
- Insert your paper towel tubes into the holes you cut in step 1. Make sure your story frames can be seen through the screen and that it is not backwards.
- Use glue or tape to reseal all the edges of your box.
- Decorate the outside of your box and use your handles to make your story GO!
- LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



## REFLECT



How will you and your learner use the Paper Box Motion Story?



Created in collaboration with:  
Aáron Heard & Gwynn White-Best

For more resources, visit us:  
[makered.org](http://makered.org)



Share your project! @MakerEdOrg #MakerEdAtHome #PaperBoxMotionStory

