

TECHNO Toon

Teacher Guide

Lessons for Elementary Students: Grades 3-8



Technology Project for
PowerPoint
Animate a digital story.

Inspire writers to use their imaginations for storytelling.

In this project, students create a digital story in the style of a cartoon or animated comic strip using Microsoft PowerPoint. To start, they learn about writing conventions and watch sample stories as a source of inspiration. Students then apply their creativity to construct their story with text boxes, images, callouts, starbursts, and shapes. Transitions are inserted between slides to divide the scenes. Animation is applied to objects to sequence the timing of events. Upon completion, the digital story is shared with peers. Challenging extension activities support learning with optional assignments such as picture editing, advanced animation techniques, or print options. Discover the fun your students can have with PowerPoint!

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| TechnoToon Overview | i |
| Technology Integration Ideas | ii |
| Prepare to Teach TechnoToon | iv |
| Assignment 1 Digital Storytelling, Cartoons, & Comic Strips | 1 |
| What Is a Digital Story? | 1 |
| What Is a Cartoon or Comic Strip? | 1 |
| Assignment 2 View Sample Digital Stories | 3 |
| Study Digital Stories | 3 |
| Assignment 3 Organize Story Ideas for the Digital Story | 4 |
| Pick a Story Idea | 4 |
| Sketch Your Ideas | 5 |
| Assignment 4 Make the Title Slide | 6 |
| Open PowerPoint and Create a New Presentation | 6 |
| Add Story Title and Author to Slide | 6 |
| Apply a Slide Background | 6 |
| Format the Text | 7 |
| Format the Font Size | 8 |
| Format the Font Style | 8 |
| Format the Font Color | 8 |
| Apply a Shape Style to a Text Box | 9 |
| Format the Fill Color of a Text Box | 9 |
| Format the Outline of a Text Box | 9 |
| Use Skills to Complete the Title Slide | 10 |
| Close PowerPoint | 10 |
| Assignment 5 Set the Scene | 11 |
| Open the Digital Story in PowerPoint | 11 |
| Add a New Slide and Apply a Layout | 11 |
| Introduce the Story Using a Text Box | 11 |
| Resize, Move, or Rotate a Text Box | 12 |
| Add a Picture as the Slide Background | 12 |
| Insert Character | 13 |
| Draw a Callout to Make the Character Speak or Think | 13 |
| Use Skills to Complete the Slide | 14 |
| Save and Close PowerPoint | 14 |
| Assignment 6 Create the Action Scenes | 15 |
| Open the Digital Story in Microsoft PowerPoint | 15 |
| Add a New Slide and Apply a Layout | 15 |
| Insert an Object | 15 |
| Emphasize an Action or Sound Effect Using WordArt | 16 |
| Draw a Starburst | 17 |
| Adjust the Object Order | 17 |
| Group the WordArt and Starburst | 17 |
| Use Skills to Complete Remaining Slides | 17 |
| Assignment 7 Add Transitions and Animations | 18 |
| Open the Digital Story in Microsoft PowerPoint | 18 |
| Add a Transition Between Slides | 18 |
| Animate Objects | 19 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Reorder Animation..... | 19 |
| Play the Digital Story | 19 |
| Complete the Digital Story..... | 19 |
| Assignment 8 Digital Story Checklist | 20 |
| Open the Digital Story in Microsoft PowerPoint..... | 20 |
| Watch the Digital Story..... | 20 |
| Complete the Checklist | 20 |
| Close PowerPoint | 20 |
| Assignment 9 Share Your Digital Story | 21 |
| Set Your Story to Automatically Play..... | 21 |
| Options for Sharing the Digital Story | 21 |
| Be a Peer Editor (Optional) | 22 |
| Extension Activity 1: Generate a Story Idea | 23 |
| Extension Activity 2: Use Images from the Internet | 24 |
| Extension Activity 3: Picture Editing Workshop | 26 |
| Extension Activity 4: Animation Workshop | 29 |
| Extension Activity 5: Print a Comic Strip or Comic Book | 32 |
| Extension Activity 6: Make a Video | 33 |
| Appendix A: Assessment Tools | 34 |
| TechnoToon Skill Summary | 34 |
| TechnoToon – Digital Story Marking Sheet | 36 |
| Appendix B: Material List..... | 37 |

TechnoToon Overview

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| <p><i>Purpose:</i> Engage in digital storytelling. Produce a cartoon or animated comic strip that tells a story using text, imagery, and animation.</p> | <p><i>Preparation:</i> (see <i>Prepare to Teach</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install Microsoft 365 • Install Adobe Acrobat Reader • Share <i>Toon</i> folder with students • Download Flashcards and Tool Summary from TechnoHub (optional) |
| <p><i>Objectives:</i> (see <i>Appendix A: Skill Summary</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine digital stories • select and organize story ideas • produce an original digital story • revise a story to improve quality • publish a digital story to share with others • insert new slides and select layout • format slide background for story backdrop • express ideas using text and shapes • illustrate events with images and objects • divide story action by applying transitions • animate slide objects to sequence events • set a digital story to play automatically | <p><i>Materials:</i> (see <i>Appendix B:</i> for a complete list)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Story Checklist, Peer Editing Checklist, TechnoToon Skill Summary, Digital Story Marking Sheet • Toon folder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Workbook Assignment Sheets ◦ Samples: What is It; My Dream, Super Dog, Connection, PSA, Biography ◦ Cartoon1 and Cartoon 2 templates • Parent Letter and Certificate (optional) • Flashcards and Tool Summary (optional) |
| <p><i>Summary of Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about digital storytelling, cartoons, and comic strips. Complete storyboard panels. • View sample digital stories as a source of inspiration. Answer questions about their content. • Use a planning sheet to draft story ideas. Organize events into panels. • Make a title slide. Format text and text boxes. Apply a slide background. • Set the scene. Create a slide with a picture background. Include a text box, character, and callout. • Create the remaining scenes. Include a starburst with text to emphasize an action. • Add transitions to divide scenes. Animate objects to control the timing of events and enhance story. • Complete a digital story checklist. Make revisions. • Share a digital story. | |
| <p><i>Extension Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a Story Idea: Select a character, setting, and plot to generate a storyline. • Use Images from Internet: Learn about copyright. Save a background or WordArt. Insert onto slide. • Picture Editing Workshop: Crop, frame, and flip images. • Animation Workshop: Practice animation techniques by making a short story. • Print a Comic Strip or Comic Book: Print a handout with customized settings. • Make a Video: Output the digital story as a movie file. | |
| <p><i>Assessment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Evaluation (Digital Story Checklist) • Peer-Evaluation (Peer Editing Checklist) • Teacher Evaluation (TechnoToon Skill Summary, Digital Story Marking Sheet) | |
| <p><i>Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital storytelling is a language arts activity. Activities follow the stages of the writing process. • The creative writing assignment can be kept simple. Use extension activities to challenge students with advanced skills. | |

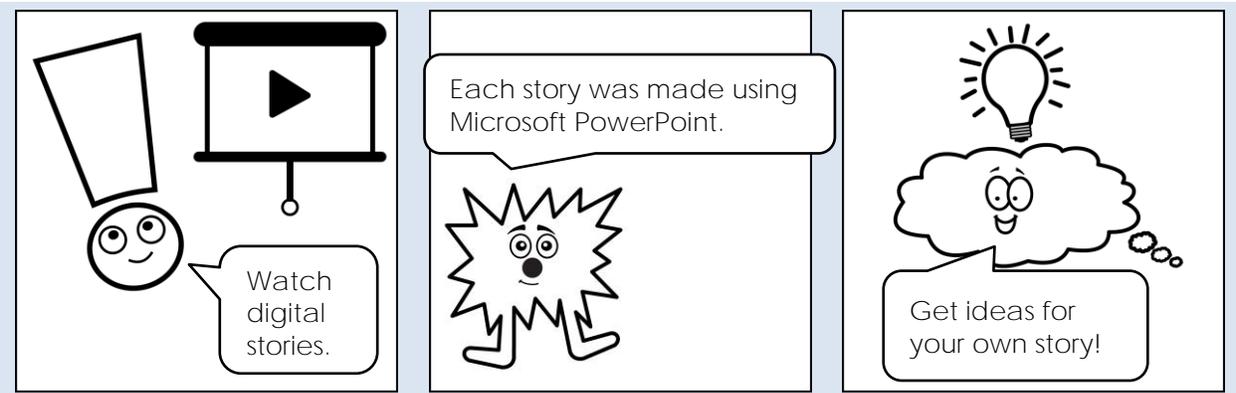
Technology Integration Ideas

Inspire reluctant writers with digital storytelling. The TechnoToon project integrates technology into language arts. Have your students use their imaginations to create a story that looks like a cartoon or animated comic strip. This is a fun creative writing activity that students will enjoy.

TechnoToon can be used as a creative writing unit, an option for a book report, or as part of a novel study. Here are a few ideas!

- *Write an Original Story:* Plan a story or simple scenario that has a beginning, middle, and end. Divide the action into panels. Use text boxes to describe the scene, callouts for characters to speak or think, and clip art to illustrate the action. (see *What Is It sample*)
- *Only a Dream:* Create a dream sequence that shows a series of imaginary scenes. This is an easy way to plan a digital story. (see *My Dream sample*)
- *Illustrate a Wacky Scene:* Have fun with a cliché or popular expression. Make a simple scene that explains what happens when pigs fly, there is a blue moon, or it starts raining cats and dogs.
- *Invent a Superhero:* Create a character and give them a name and superpower. Have the hero save the day! Take part in a rescue mission, engage in an epic battle with a powerful foe, stop a crook, or retrieve a lost item. (see *Super Dog sample*)
- *Tell a Joke:* Make people laugh! Use one slide to make a silly scene, two slides to show before and after clips, or several slides to tell a knock-knock joke.
- *Transform a Popular Story:* Remake a nursery rhyme or fairy tale into a cartoon. Swap the characters, adjust the story line, or rewrite the ending to create a modern twist on an old favorite.
- *Retell a Story:* Summarize the main parts of a story. Sequence the key events using slides as scenes. In the first scene introduce the characters and setting. The following slides illustrate the action.
- *Rewrite the Ending:* Produce an animated scene that illustrates a different ending. Include a slide that explains why this ending is better than that of the author.
- *Makeover a Realistic Story into a Cartoon:* Consider what a story would be like if the people were substituted for cartoon characters, the setting shifted to an imaginary place, but the plotline remained similar. Create a short, animated clip of the cartoon version.
- *Join the Action:* Insert yourself into the story. What advice would you share? How would you help? Recreate a scene from the story. Use a clip art character, photo, or web cam image to put yourself into the scene. Does your advice or behavior change the ending?
- *Form a Connection:* Reflect on the story. What connection do you have? Do you like the same things as the main character, have you shared a similar experience, or does the story remind you of something you have seen or read? Explain the connection and use evidence from the book or your life to support your ideas. (see *connection sample*)
- *Conduct a Character Analysis:* How does the character change as the story unfolds? Create a three-panel animated comic strip. In the first panel introduce the character at the beginning of the story. Use callouts and textboxes to show their mood, describe their character traits, and explain their role within the story. In the second panel illustrate an important event that causes a change or growth within the character. In the final panel show the character at the end of the story. How are they different?

Assignment 2 View Sample Digital Stories



Study Digital Stories

- ▷ Open the *Toon* folder.
View each sample and answer the questions.

1. You can create a simple digital story using Microsoft PowerPoint with only a few images. Watch *What Is It*.



Finish the story differently. What else could have been in the box?

2. Making a digital story is fun because you can use your imagination. With only a few images and simple animation you can make a story come to life. Watch *My Dream*.



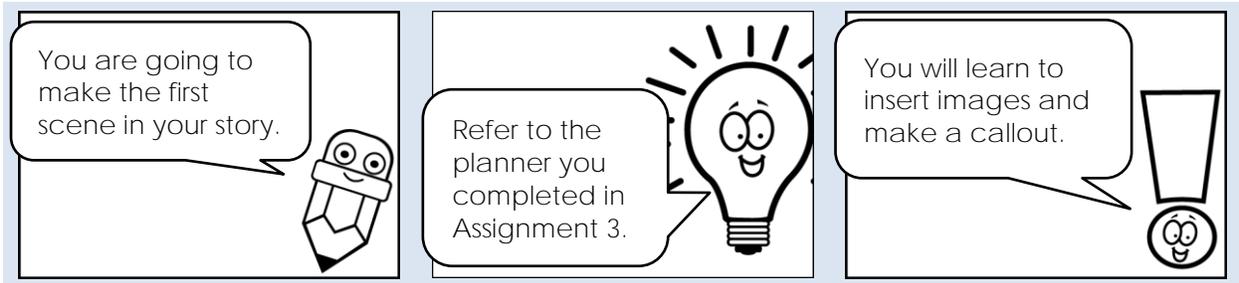
What other things could you dream about that would make you happy?

3. In a digital story, characters can be made to move and talk. Callouts help to tell the story. Watch *Super Dog*.



What character could you use for a super hero? What would be their super power?

Assignment 5 Set the Scene



Open the Digital Story in PowerPoint

Add a New Slide and Apply a Layout

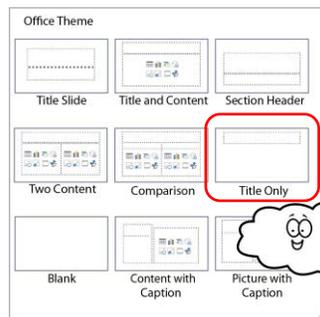
- ▶ Select the thumbnail of the first slide in the slide pane.



- ▶ Click the *New Slide* arrow.



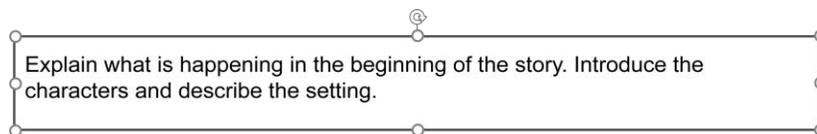
- ▶ Pick *Title Only*.



The *Title Only* layout has a text box that can be used to describe the scene.

Introduce the Story Using a Text Box

- ▶ Type inside the text box:



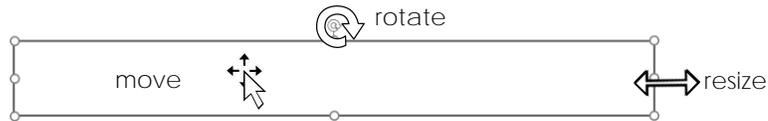
- ▶ Format the font , size , style ***S***, or color **A** of text.

- ▶ From the Home tab, pick an alignment option.

- ▶ From the Shape Format tab, set a text box style , fill , outline , or effect

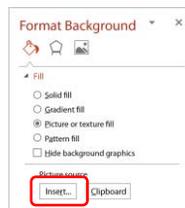
Resize, Move, or Rotate a Text Box

- ▷ Select the text box.
Edit the shape and position of the text box:
 - Click and drag a handle IN or OUT to resize it.
 - Click and drag on the border of the text box to move it.
 - Click on the rotate handle and turn the mouse to change the angle.



Add a Picture as the Slide Background

- ▷ Click the *Design* tab. Click *Format Background*.
- ▷ Select *Picture or texture fill*. Click *Insert*.



- ▷ Pick *Online Pictures*.
- ▷ In the search box, type **background**. Press ENTER.
- ▷ Refine the search using the Filter options.

Refine the search. Click and choose options.

The picture you pick should be WIDE.

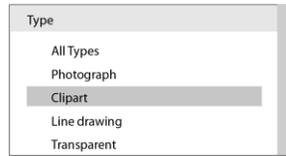
- ▷ Find a picture you like. Click on it and then click *Insert*.
- ▷ Close the *Format Background* pane.

Search Word Tips: Use these words or combine them with a search word to find a background. Make the word plural to change the search results.

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| gradient | fabric | pattern | paper | texture |
| wall | wood | background | wallpaper | abstract |
| design | scene | scenery | nature | fantasy |
| landscape | scape | painting | art | summer |
| dark or light | night | colorful | free | stock |
| watercolor | presentation | sketch | vector | drawing |

Insert Character

- ▶ From the Insert tab, click *Pictures*.  Pick *Online Pictures*. 
- ▶ In the search box, type **search word**. Press ENTER.
- ▶ Click *Filter*.  Select *Clipart* to find cartoon images.



- ▶ Click on a character you like. Click *Insert*.

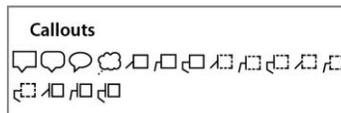


If your character has a colored background, from the Picture Format tab, click *Color* . Click *Set Transparent Color* . Click the colored background.

- ▶ Use your skills to resize  and move  the character.

Draw a Callout to Make the Character Speak or Think

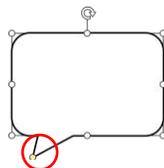
- ▶ From the Insert tab, click *Shapes*. 
From the *Callouts* category pick a shape.



- ▶ Click and drag to draw a callout.
- ▶ Click inside the callout. Type **what the character is saying or thinking**.



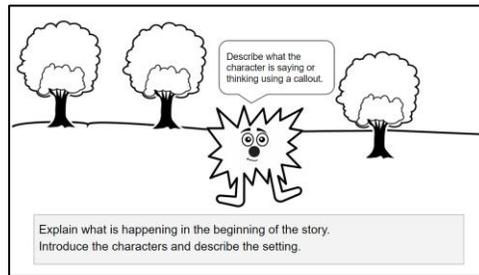
- ▶ Rest the mouse over the yellow handle.
Drag it to change the direction of the tail.



- ▶ Use your skills to resize  and place  the callout.
- ▶ Click the *Shape Format* tab. Apply a style , fill , outline , or effect .

Use Skills to Complete the Slide

- ▷ Complete the first scene in your story.
- ▷ Use text boxes and callouts to explain what is happening.



- ▷ Use your skills to create the scene.

Story Making Tips:

- ✓ Any shape  can have text added.
- ✓ Use Pictures  and pick Online Pictures  to add objects to the scene.
- ✓ Use the text box to describe the action.
- ✓ Show your scene to a friend. Is there enough information to understand what is happening?
- ✓ Copy  (CTRL + C) and paste  (CTRL + V) objects to quickly

Save and Close PowerPoint

Complete Extension Activity 2 to learn how to save pictures from the Internet to use in your cartoon.



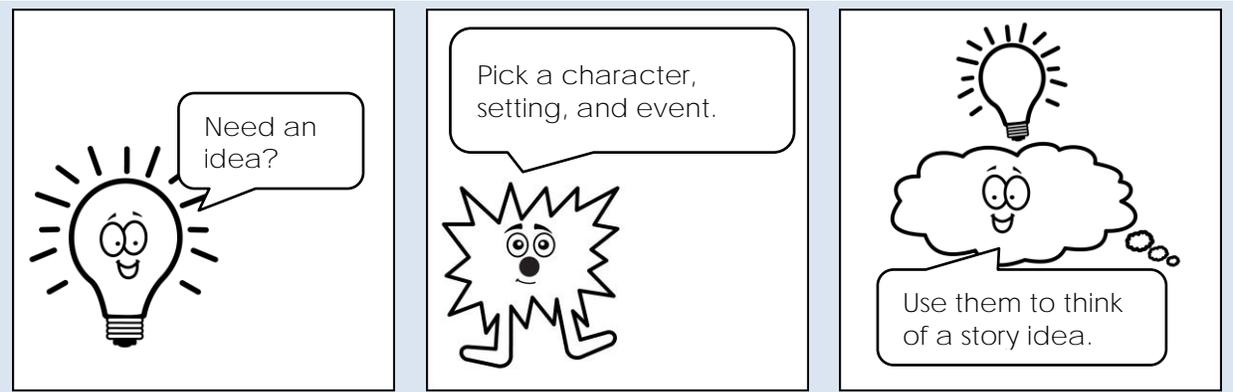
Be a Peer Editor (Optional)

Watch a digital story.
Complete the checklist.

| | |
|---|---|
| Story Quality | ✓ |
| The title attracts attention and tells about the story. | |
| The scenes combine to create a story that is interesting and makes sense. | |
| Content and Design | ✓ |
| The images used for the characters are suitable for the story. | |
| Text boxes are used to describe the action. | |
| Callouts are used to express what the character is saying or thinking. | |
| Objects such as starbursts and WordArt emphasize the story action. | |
| Slide backgrounds provide a fitting backdrop for a scene. | |
| Animations and Transitions | ✓ |
| Transitions divide the scenes. | |
| Animations suit the object and enhance the story telling. | |
| The animations are sequenced in a logical order. | |

| Comments – List one thing you liked about the digital story. |
|--|
| |

Extension Activity 1: Generate a Story Idea



My Story Idea:

| Character | Setting | Event |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| alien or monster | jungle or woods | holiday |
| dinosaur | ocean | curse or spell |
| robot | planet | explosion |
| pirate | tomb | top secret mission |
| superhero or villain | temple or pyramid | robbery |
| unicorn | cave | disappearance |
| genius | castle | escape |
| mummy | parallel universe | time travel |
| witch or wizard | desert | discovery |
| spy | north pole | kidnapping |
| vampire | mountain | party |
| knight | maze | cure or virus |

Spark your imagination! Pick an adjective to describe your character or setting.

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| brave | ugly | lazy | invisible | mythical |
| jolly | charmed | weird | shrinking | frozen |
| evil | cryptic | far away | talking | spooky |

Need more ideas? Pick a gadget or object to include in your story.

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| doomsday ray | teleporter | freeze machine | relic or amulet | serum |
| wand | scroll | mask | spaceship | sword or dagger |

TechnoToon – Digital Story Marking Sheet

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| <p>Story Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The title attracts attention and tells about the story.• The scenes combine to create an interesting story that makes sense.• All scenes are created in the style of a cartoon or comic strip.• Story idea is original.• Story is free of spelling and grammar errors. <p style="text-align: right;">/10</p> |
| <p>Content and Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The images used for the characters are suitable for the story.• Text boxes are used to describe the action.• Callouts are used to express what the character is saying or thinking.• Objects such as starbursts or WordArt emphasize the story action.• Slide backgrounds provide a fitting backdrop for each scene. <p style="text-align: right;">/10</p> |
| <p>Animations and Transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transitions divide the scenes and add interest.• Animations suit the object and enhance the story telling.• Animations are sequenced in a logical order.• The speed of animation is timed appropriately.• Animation is creative. <p style="text-align: right;">/5</p> |
| <p>Comments:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/25</p> |