Pre activity for Stop Motion Movies

Before doing the Stop Motion Movies activity we ask teachers to help their students with prep work. When going out to schools to do the program, we have a 3 hour time slot. If they have not completed the pre activity, we ask for an extra hour with their students to help them plan what their movie will look like.

Before Fab Lab Houston visits your school, please complete the following activities. Having them done before we arrive will allow our instructors to focus on the digital fabrication aspect of the program.

1. Watch the examples provided of stop motion movies so students know what a stop motion is and to get ideas for how to use materials.   
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zO9ZYXzCFn0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo2ioUYugMA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA2XrXeHSRg>

1. Give students blank paper, pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers, etc… to start planning their stop motion movie.   
 When doing a stop motion movie, the more frames you have the better. If you take 60 pictures (frames) the movie will typically be 2-3 seconds long. Students do not need to sketch out every single frame, but should have an idea of what kind of movement they are looking to achieve with their stop motion. For example, if they are showing a balloon flying into the sky, a few frames drawn out to show the motion is adequate. This will also allow them to see if there will be other movement. Is there a bird or a plane in the sky? Maybe some clouds for the balloon to float by. The stop motion movies can be whatever the student’s imagination makes up, or they can be themed for different subject matter. For history they can be asked to depict a historical event, science can be to show a process, English can show a scene from a book, math can bring a word problem to life.

2. Students should now start to make a ‘character’ list. This will be any objects that they would like to have in their stop motion movie. Fab Lab Houston will bring some small props, play-doh, and the laser cutters to make cardboard shapes for objects that can be flat. We will also bring paint and markers to color the cardboard so they can have faces and details if needed.

3.