



## USING ANIMATED GIFs IN THE CLASSROOM

Students can use animated GIFs to explain concepts. Why use animated GIFs instead of a movie or a slideshow? Animated GIFs are very small files (<250kbs) and typically last less than 30 seconds. It's a way to pack a lot of information into a quick easy "sound bite." Students could make gifs and display them on the SmartBoard as they give a verbal presentation explaining the concept. If you have a class webpage or blog, you could upload the GIFs for other students to see/learn from. GIFs are great for presenting:

- **Data that changes over time.** Make a GIF of a plant growing (similar to a time-lapse photo)
- **Simple information becomes more complex.** Break big ideas into small pieces like molecules combining to create an element.
- **Multiple steps in a process.** How to form a letter (you could make a gif and show it on the smartboard as you walk around and help students with their handwriting), how to complete an equation, or the life cycle of a plant...
- **Multiple sides of a three-dimensional object.** What does it look like from the back? Or the side?

There are so many possibilities! Here's how you can make them:

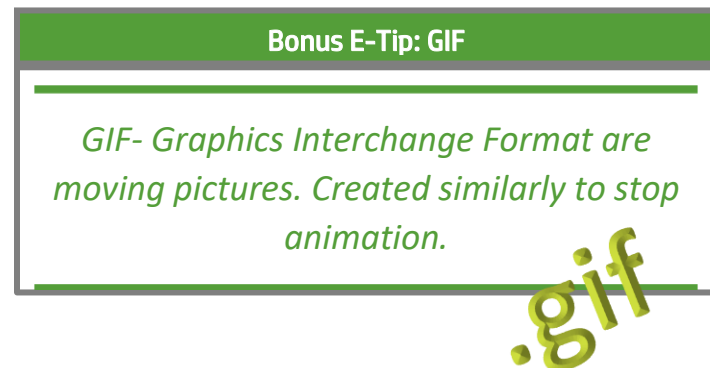
### How-To:

1. Find or draw the images you want to use
  - a. <https://openclipart.org>
  - b. <https://wpclipart.com/>
  - c. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Public\\_domain\\_image\\_resources#General\\_Collections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Public_domain_image_resources#General_Collections)
  - d. <https://pixabay.com/>
2. Put the images into a PowerPoint or Google Slides or Keynote presentation. Add animations if you like.

3. Use screencasting to record a video of your slideshow (or, if using PowerPoint, you can go to File, Export and save presentation as a video file)
4. Convert your video to a .GIF
  - a. <https://ezgif.com/>
  - b. <https://giphy.com/>
  - c. <https://imgflip.com/> (you can also use this website to make Memes)

Or go to sites like [www.flipanim.com](http://www.flipanim.com) to create GIFs directly. Draw it, upload it, then right click and save. (Note this site allows over 18 content. So use with discretion—don't have students search for GIFs.) See this page for a How-To video:

<http://www.freetch4teachers.com/2017/08/how-to-create-animated-gifs.html>



Find more E-Tips at <https://goo.gl/qPn7bN>

### Sources:

"A Comprehensive Guide to Creating Explanatory Animated GIFs." Free Technology for Teachers. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 July 2017. <http://www.freetch4teachers.com/2017/08/flip-anim-quickly-create-animated-gifs.html#.WacNciGPIU>

<http://www.freetch4teachers.com/2015/07/a-comprehensive-guide-to-creating.html#.WacF4siGPIU>

"How to Create ExplainerGIFS." Common Craft. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 July 2017.

<https://www.commoncraft.com/explainergifs>