How to Draw in a Flipbook

What is a Flipbook?

A flipbook is a book with a series of pictures that change gradually from one page to the next. When the pages are flipped quickly, the pictures appear to move like an animation. Some photographers and film pioneers in the late 1800s used flipbooks as a way to display series of sequential photos before the invention of film projectors and movie cameras. Today, flipbooks can be made with illustrations or photographs, and some are even included in the page corners of normal books or magazines!

Materials:

- Blank flipbook
- Pencil
- Color pencils or markers
- Eraser
Instructions:

1. Once you have made your blank flipbook, it’s time to start drawing! First, come up with an idea of what you want to animate. Try to pick a simple action or movement with an object or character that you know you can draw over and over.

Some ideas: a rocket or plane flying through the sky, a flower growing, or a fish swimming in the sea.

2. On the first page of your flipbook, decide where the animation will start. The drawing you make on this page should be relatively small to give your subject enough room to move. Draw closer to the center or outer edge of your flipbook—the closer it is to the binding, the harder it will be to see it when it is flipped through.

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3. After your first drawing, move to page two. Draw your second illustration but move your subject a little bit in the direction you want them to go in. This could be the start of your character walking or your rocket beginning to take off. Smaller movements will help make your flipbook animation smoother and successful.

4. Once you have made the second drawing, do a quick test to see if your animation is working. Simply flip back and forth between the two drawings to see if your subject is moving. If it’s to your liking, move to the next page.
5. For the remaining pages in the flipbook, keep drawing small movements on each page until you reach the end.

6. Once you have filled up your flipbook, it’s time to flip through it! Hold the spine in one hand and use the thumb of your other hand to gently flip the pages and watch your drawings come to life!

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