EDUCATOR GUIDE

Animate Your Name

With this guide, you can plan and lead a one-hour workshop using Scratch. Participants will gain experience with coding as they animate the letters in their name.

Workshop Overview

Here's a suggested agenda for a one-hour workshop:

IMAGINE
10 minutes

First, gather as a group to introduce the theme and spark ideas.

CREATE
40 minutes

Next, help participants as they animate their names, working at their own pace.

SHARE
10 minutes

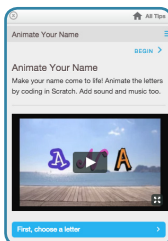At the end of the session, gather together to share and reflect.

Get Ready for the Workshop

Use this checklist to prepare for the workshop.

☐ **Preview the Tutorial**

The Animate Your Name tutorial shows participants how to create their own projects. Preview the tutorial before your workshop and try the first few steps:
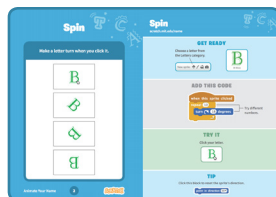**scratch.mit.edu/name**

☐ **Print the Activity Cards**

Print a few sets of Animate Your Name cards to have available for participants during the workshop.
scratch.mit.edu/name/cards

☐ **Make sure participants have Scratch accounts**

Participants can sign up for their own Scratch accounts at **scratch.mit.edu**, or you can set up student accounts if you have a Teacher Account. To request a Teacher Account, go to: **scratch.mit.edu/educators**

☐ **Set up computers or laptops**

Arrange computers so that participants can work individually or in pairs.

☐ **Set up a computer with projector or large monitor**

You can use a projector to show examples and demonstrate how to get started.

Imagine

IMAGINE

Begin by gathering the participants to introduce the theme and spark ideas for projects.

> **Warm-up Activity: Letter Shapes**
>
> Gather the group in a circle. Ask each participant to say their name, and then have everyone in the group act out the shape of the first letter.

> **Provide Ideas and Inspiration**
>
> Show the introductory video for the Animate Your Name tutorial. The video shows a variety of projects for ideas and inspiration.
>
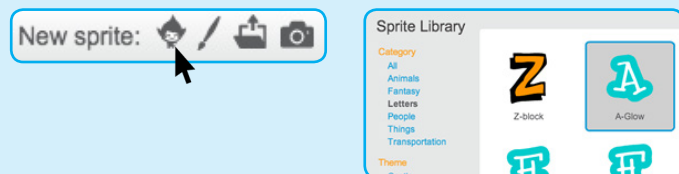> View at **scratch.mit.edu/name** or **vimeo.com/llk/name**
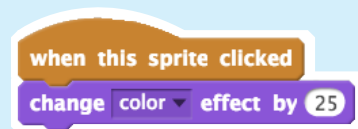
Demonstrate the First Steps

IMAGINE

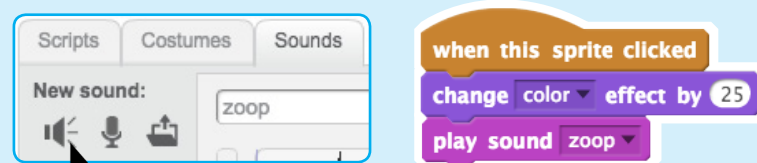Demonstrate the first few steps of the tutorial so participants can see how to get started.

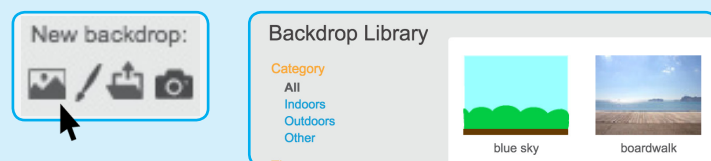**In Scratch, click Create.**
Choose a letter from the Sprite Library:

New sprite:

Sprite Library
Category
All
Animals
Fantasy
Letters
People
Things
Transportation
Theme

Z-block   A-Glow

Make it do something:

when this sprite clicked
change color effect by 25

Add a sound:

Scripts Costumes Sounds
New sound:
zoop

when this sprite clicked
change color effect by 25
play sound zoop

Choose a new backdrop:

New backdrop:

Backdrop Library
Category
All
Indoors
Outdoors
Other

blue sky   boardwalk

Create

CREATE

Support participants as they create interactive name projects.
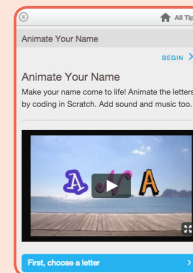
Start with Prompts
Ask participants questions to get started
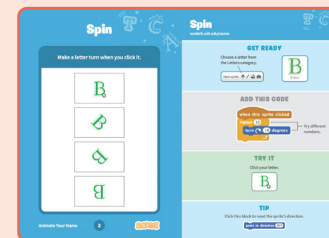
Do you want to animate your name, initials, or username?

Which letter do you want to start with?

Provide Resources
Offer options for getting started

All Tips
Animate Your Name
Animate Your Name
Make your name come to life! Animate the letters by coding in Scratch. Add sound and music too.

First, choose a letter

Spin   Spin
Make a letter turn when you click it.
GET READY
Choose a letter from the Letters category.
ADD THIS CODE
Try it different numbers.
TRY IT
Click your letter.
TIP
Click this block to reset the sprite's direction.
Animate Your Name

Some particpants may want to follow the online tutorial:
scratch.mit.edu/name

Others may want to explore using the printed activity cards.
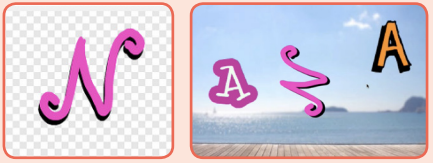
Suggest Ideas for Starting

• Choose a letter
• Make it change color
• Add a sound
• Add a backdrop
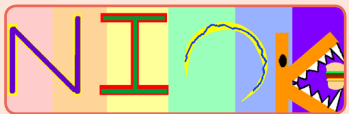
CREATE

More Things to Try

- Draw a letter
- Make it spin
- Make it glide
- Change size

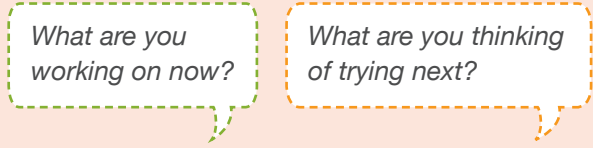Add more letters and motion!

Support collaboration

- When someone gets stuck, connect them to another participant who can help.
- See a cool idea? Ask the creator to share with others.

Encourage experimenting

Help participants feel comfortable trying different combinations of blocks and seeing what happens.
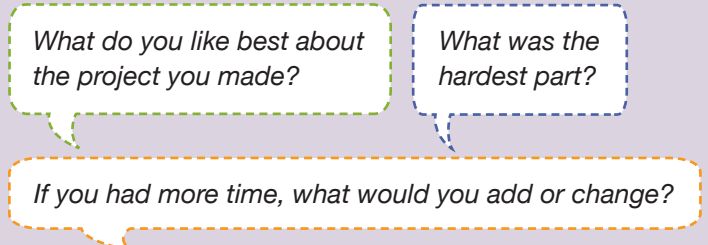
To understand their thought process, you can ask questions:

What are you working on now?

What are you thinking of trying next?

Share

SHARE

Have participants share their project with their neighbors.

Ask questions they can discuss:

What do you like best about the project you made?

What was the hardest part?

If you had more time, what would you add or change?

What's Next?

Participants can use the ideas and concepts from this workshop to create a wide variety of projects. Here are a few variations on the animated name project you could suggest.

Other Names

Animate the name of a favorite character from a book or movie. Or, animate the letters of the name of your school or town.

Start with an Image

Have participants bring in a picture (or find a picture on the web) and animate a word that goes with the picture.

Acrostics

Make an interactive acrostic (a poem in which the first letters of each line spell out a word reading down).

Scratch is a project of the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab.