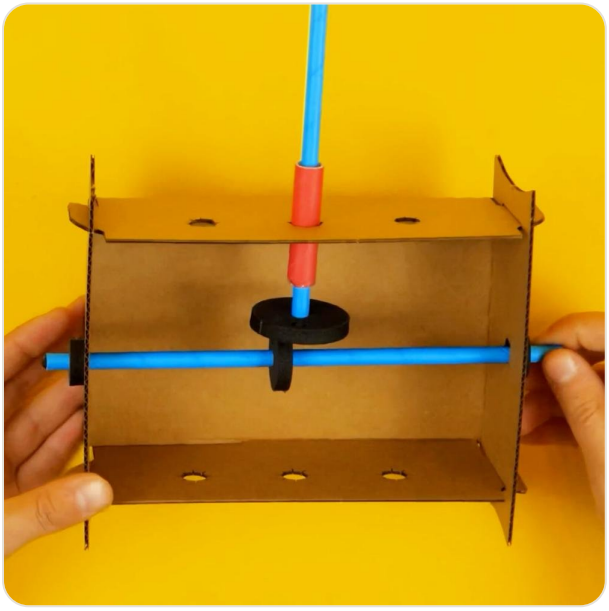
Scene Machines

Hand-cranked automata that animate a scene.



SCREEN-FREE | AGES 7 TO 14 | ABOUT 60 MIN | MAKE AND KEEP

WHAT PARTICIPANTS MAKE

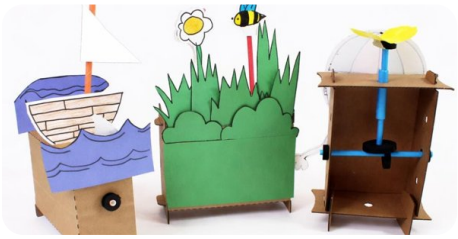
A folding cardboard automaton with a cam and follower, finished as a one-of-a-kind animated scene.

HOW IT WORKS

Campers fold a laser-cut cardboard frame and build a cam-and-follower mechanism from paper straws and foam wheels, so turning the crank sets part of the scene in motion. Then they add their own characters, art, and story around the mechanism. It connects rotational motion, mechanism design, and visual storytelling.

CAMPERS EXPLORE

Automata mechanisms (cams and followers); rotational motion; visual storytelling; the engineering design process; iterative mechanism design







PACK SIZES

PACK	CAMPERS	SKU
Small Group Pack	10	G4 SCMC 010
Class Pack	25	CL SCMC 025

Every camper gets an individual reclosable kit with a printed visual guide. Scissors optional.

Educator video
12:42 min

Educator guide

Standards connections (from the educator guide): NGSS K-PS2-1, K-2-ETS1-2, 3-PS2-1, 3-5-ETS1-3, MS-PS3-5, MS-ETS1-3. Common Core RI.K-2.7, SL.K-2.1, RI.3-5.3, W.3-5.3, RST.6-8.3, SL.6-8.1, 2.MD.A.1, K.G.A.1, 4.MD.C.5, 4.OA.C.5, 7.G.B.4, 7.RP.A.2.