



## 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.

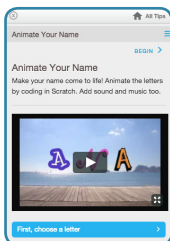
## Get Ready for the Workshop

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:

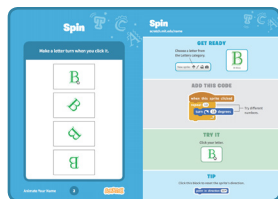
[scratch.mit.edu/name](https://scratch.mit.edu/name)



**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](https://scratch.mit.edu/name/cards)



**Make sure participants have Scratch accounts**

Participants can sign up for their own Scratch accounts at [scratch.mit.edu](https://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](https://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

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.



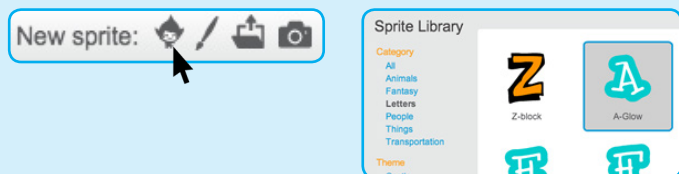
View at [scratch.mit.edu/name](https://scratch.mit.edu/name) or [vimeo.com/llk/name](https://vimeo.com/llk/name)



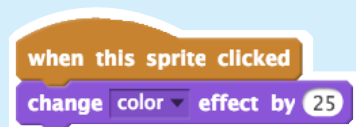
## Demonstrate the First Steps

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

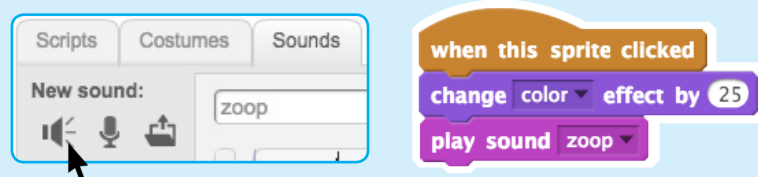
In Scratch, click Create.  
Choose a letter from the Sprite Library:



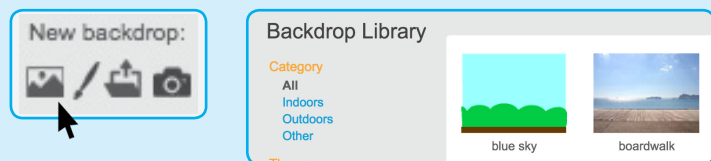
Make it do something:



Add a sound:



Choose a new backdrop:



## Create

Support participants as they create interactive name projects.

### Start with Prompts

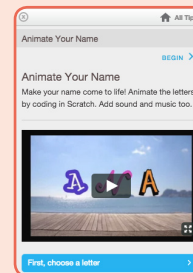
Ask participants questions to get started

*Do you want to animate your name, initials, or username?*

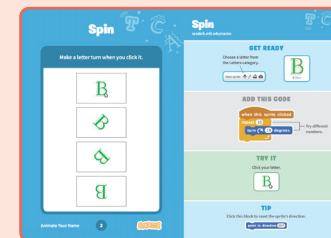
*Which letter do you want to start with?*

### Provide Resources

Offer options for getting started



Some participants may want to follow the online tutorial: [scratch.mit.edu/name](https://scratch.mit.edu/name)



Others may want to explore using the printed activity cards.

### Suggest Ideas for Starting

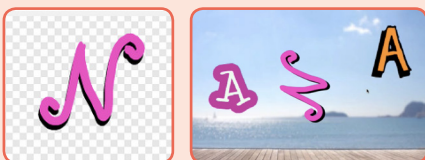
- Choose a letter
- Add a sound
- Make it change color
- Add a backdrop



### More Things to Try

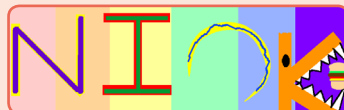
- Draw a letter
- Make it spin
- Make it glide
- Change size

Add more letters and motion!



### Support collaboration

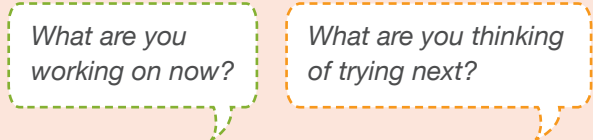
- When someone gets stuck, connect them to another participant who can help.
- See a cool idea? Ask the creator to share with others.



### Encourage experimenting

Help participants feel comfortable trying different combinations of blocks and seeing what happens.

To understand their thought process, you can ask questions:



# 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.