

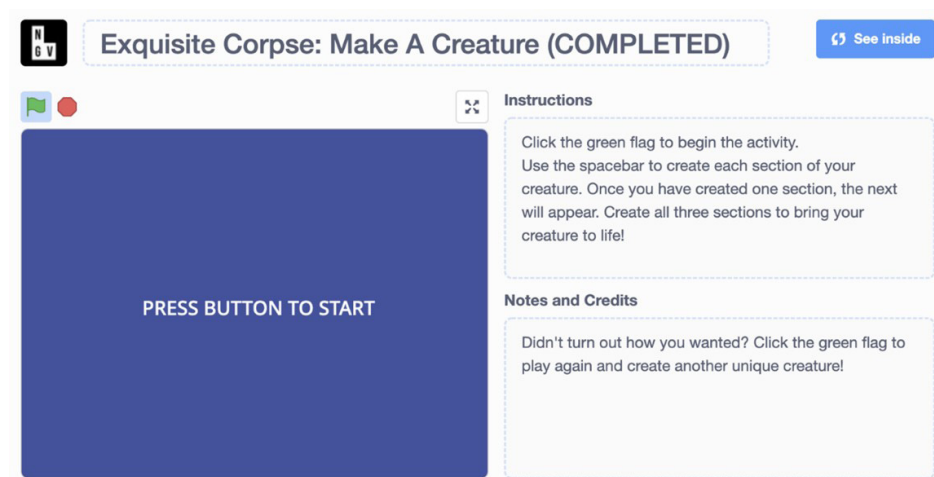
DIGITAL CREATIVES: EXQUISITE CORPSE

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The Surrealists were a group of artists who were interested in exploring memories, dreams and unconscious thoughts. They liked to experiment with ways to get new ideas, including by playing creative games. In one of their drawing games they mixed up objects and parts of bodies to make strange new creatures. They called this game 'exquisite corpse'.

In this workshop, we'll be creating our own version of this game, using Scratch, a simple coding language that lets us build programs using blocks of code. We will add our own sounds and drawings, to create interesting and unique creatures. Later, we'll get even more creative and make our own controller for the game.



OPEN THE GAME (00:54)

Open the Exquisite Corpse: Make A Creature COMPLETE project file in Scratch.

Click the green flag to begin the game. Press the spacebar on your computer keyboard to choose the head, the body and legs of your creature. Once you have chosen one section, the next will appear. Select all three sections to complete your creature!

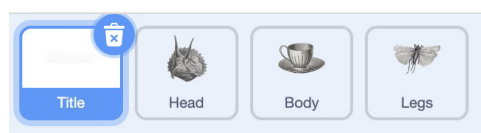
LOOK INSIDE (1:25)

Let's take a look inside the program and see how it works.

In Scratch we have the stage, where the action takes place, the sprites, the backdrop and a script area for the code that makes the program work.

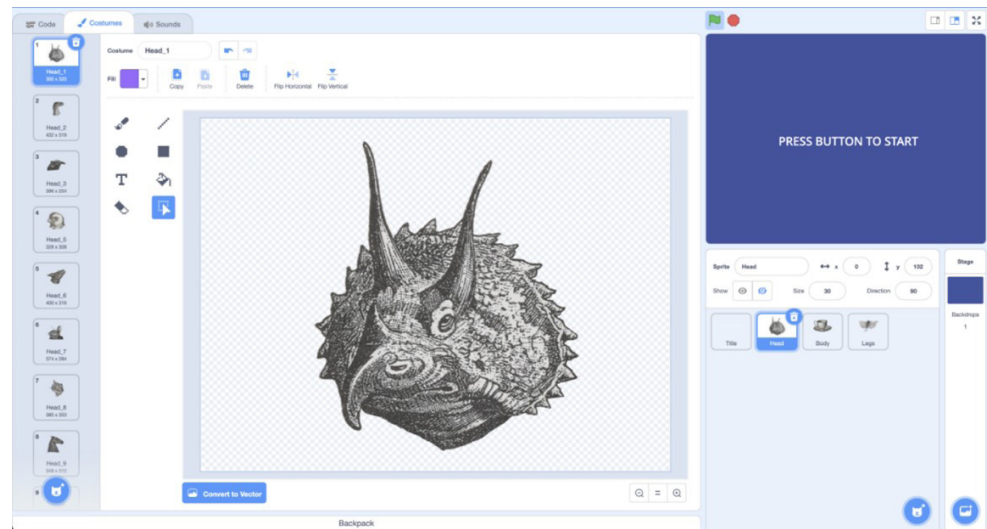
SPRITES (1:43)

Sprites are the elements that act on the stage. We can see that in this game we have four sprites: One for the title, and one each for the head, the body and the legs of our creature.



COSTUMES (1:57)

If we click on the costumes tab, we can see that each sprite has lots of costumes.



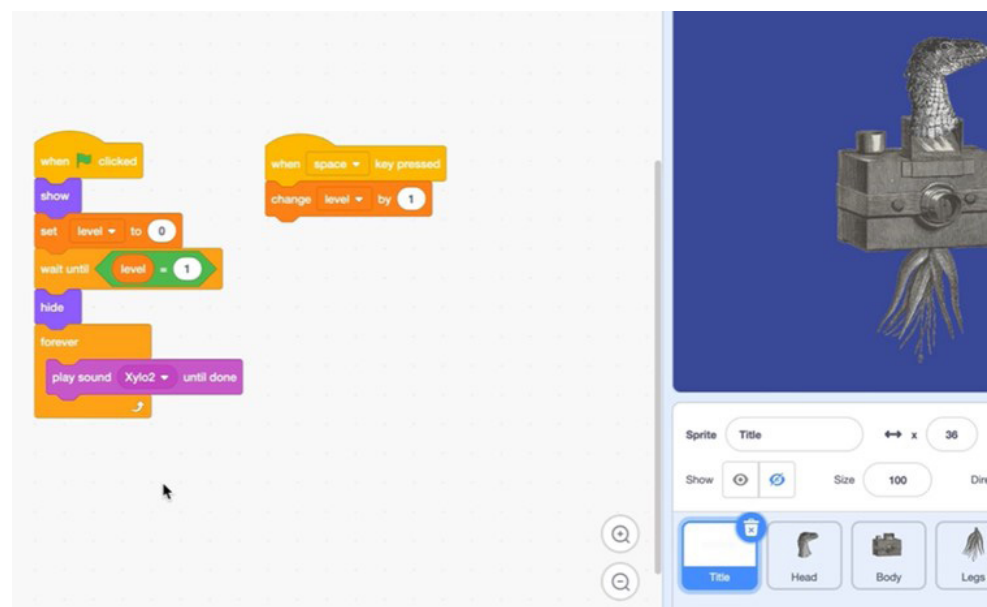
THE TITLE SPRITE (2:08)

Let's take a look at the script or code.

If we click on the Title sprite, we can see two blocks of code. The first one tells the title to show when the green flag is clicked and introduces a variable – a value that can change – called **level**. In this game the level determines whether the head, the body or the legs of the creature are active. The head is level 1, level 2 is for the body, level 3 for the legs.

The first block of code also says that if the level is 1, to hide the title and to play the xylo sound, forever, until the program is stopped.

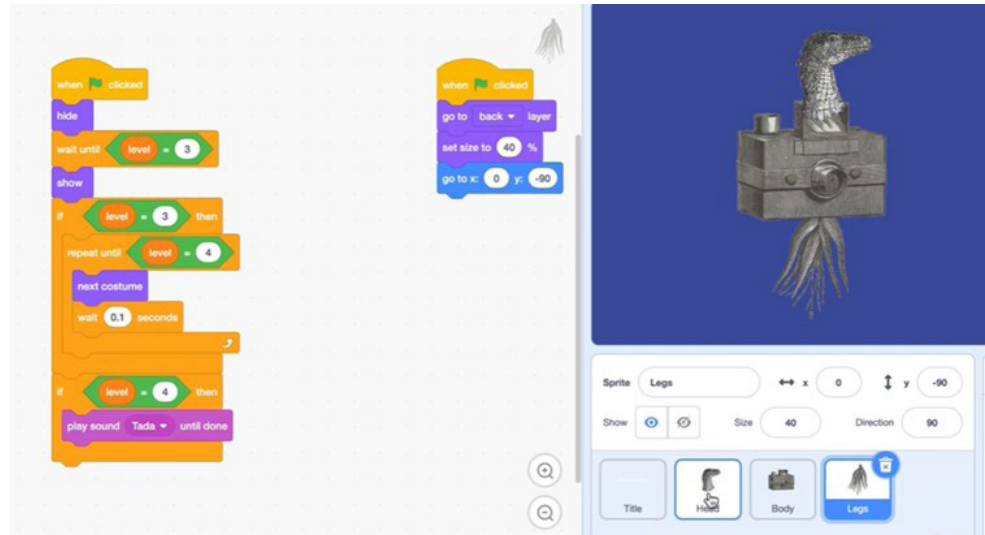
The second block of code tells the program to change the level by one whenever the space key is pressed.



HEAD BODY AND LEG SPRITES (2:58)

The head, body and leg sprites have two blocks of code each. The first code block says for the sprite to hide until their level is reached, then to show. Then, the code tells the program to keep swapping costumes every .1 seconds, until the next level (Remember, the level goes up when the space bar is pressed) When the level goes up, a sound is played.

The second block of code on the head, body and leg sprites tells the sprites what size and in what position they should appear.



BUILD THE SCRIPT YOURSELF (3:39)

You might like to try building the script on each of the sprites from the ground up. Open the Exquisite Corpse: Make A Creature INCOMPLETE Scratch project on your computer and follow the written instructions on the WRITE THE CODE pdf attached to the project page.

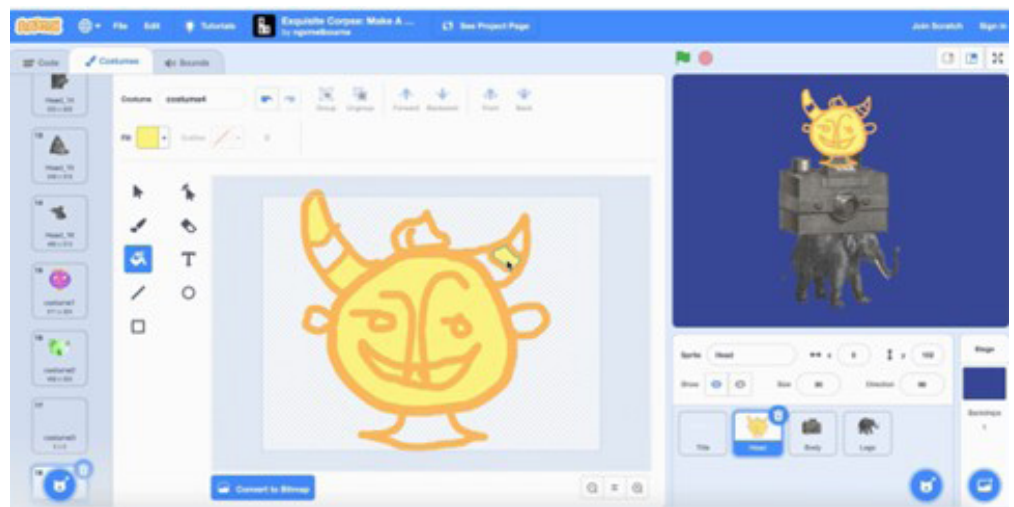
PART 2: CREATIVE COSTUMES

ADD YOUR OWN HEAD SPRITE (00:18)

Now that we have our game set up, let's have some fun with our creature by adding our own drawings into the mix! This is an opportunity for you to explore your creativity and think outside the box!

Let's begin by selecting the Head sprite, and navigating to the costumes tab. Hover over the Choose Costume button and select paint. You can see there are a few tools which you can use to create your drawing. Let's select the paintbrush tool. Since we're on a dark background, make sure to use bright colours.

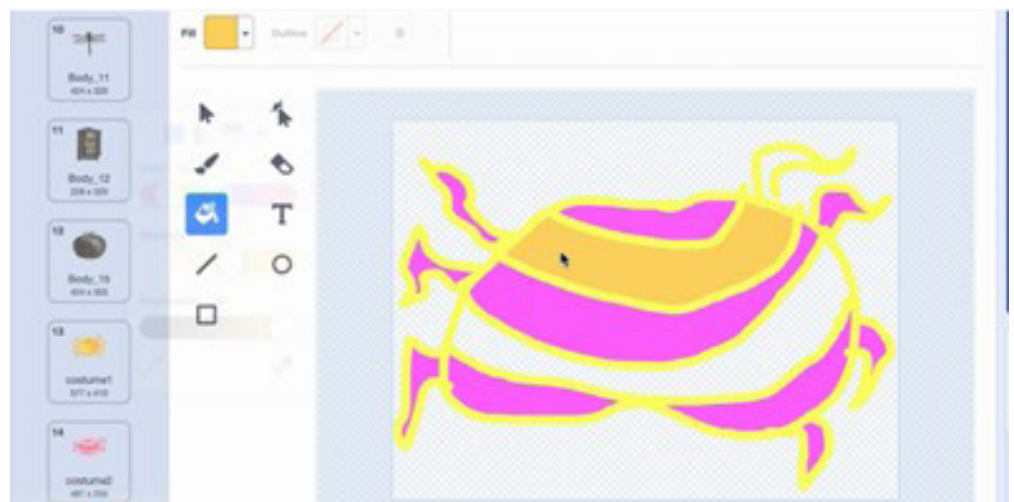
Start by drawing your head shape in the centre of the page. Add things like eyes, nose, ears. Try adding some colour and interesting features. Have some fun with it and don't be scared to go a bit crazy like the Surrealists did!



ADD YOUR OWN BODY SPRITE (2:02)

Now let's add a body to our creature.

Again, let's begin by selecting the Body sprite, and navigating to the Costumes tab. Hover your cursor over the Choose a Costume button and select Paint. Select the paint brush tool, and change the colour to something light. You can draw a body, arms, hands and a neck...and add some colour to your drawing.



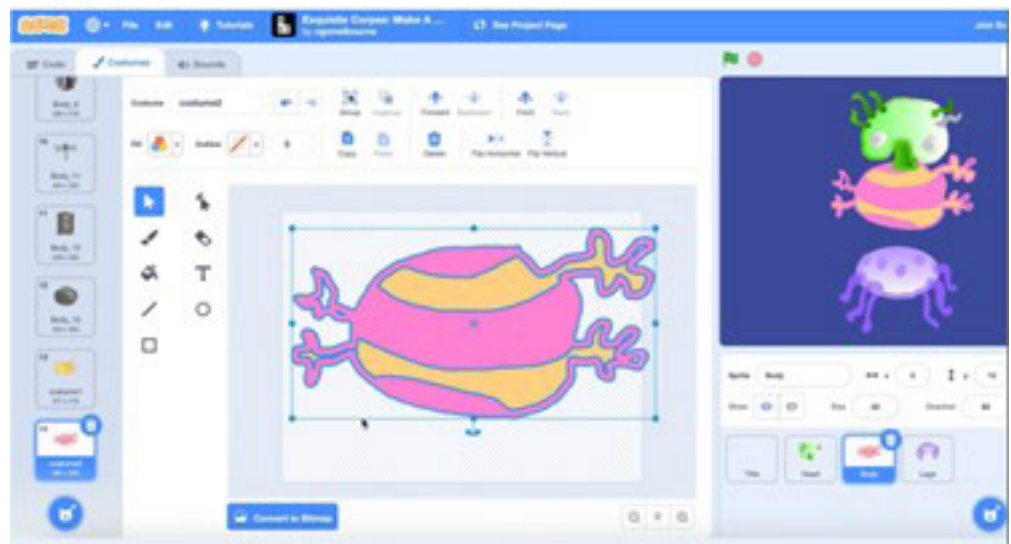
SAVE AND PLAY TO SEE YOUR COSTUMES (3:24)

The body parts you just drew will now appear in the game! Let's save and return to the project page. Play the game again to see how your drawings appear with the other costumes.



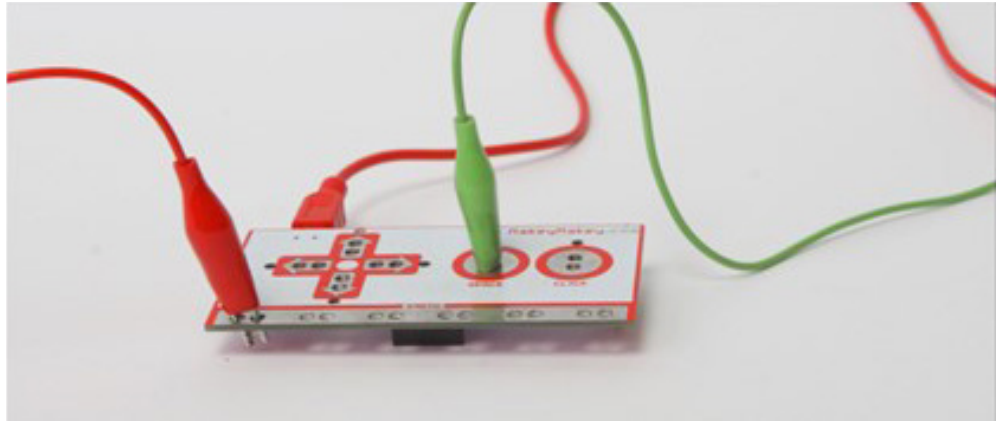
RESIZE YOUR SPRITES (3:57)

Are some of your drawings not quite fitting right? That's okay, we can easily resize them! Select the head, body or leg sprite and navigate to the costumes tab. Scroll down and select the costume you just drew. Select the pointer tool, and click and drag over the whole artboard. Your drawing should now be outlined. Click and hold on one of the corners to scale your drawing up or down. Select and hold the centre to move your drawing around the artboard. You can repeat these steps with any of the other sprites to help them fit better in the game!



PART 3: CUSTOM CONTROLLER WITH MAKEY MAKEY

So far, we've unpacked the code behind the game the game and added some of our own drawings. Now, let's add another element to the activity. Instead of using the computer's space bar to control the game, we're going to make a more creative controller for our Exquisite Corpse Game, using Makey Makey and simple craft supplies. Makey Makey: is an invention kit designed to connect everyday objects to computer keys.



YOU WILL NEED

For this activity you will need

- Pipe Cleaners
- Paper towel roll
- Tin foil
- Sticky Tape
- Foam Shapes
- Popsicle Sticks
- Other fun stuff you can find
- Makey Makey Kit

MAKE A BASE (00:53)

First we're going to make a base shape. You can use a cardboard roll or a styrofoam shape. Roll out some foil and wrap it around your base shape. Make sure the whole shape is covered.



ADD A TAB (1:09)

Before we go further, we need to create a little tab, which the Makey Makey kit is going to attach to. Start by cutting a small rectangle out of a foil sheet. Tape the rectangle down to the under-side of your shape, leaving a little tab sticking out the back!



DECORATE (1:27)

Now that we've created the base for our creature we can decorate! Let's use the rest of our craft supplies to add some arms or legs. I've given my creature a horn and one big googly eye! Get creative with it and have fun!



MAKEY MAKEY BITS (1:52)

Once you've made your creature, open the Makey Makey kit and take out one GREEN connector wire, one RED wire, the circuit board, and the long, thick red mini usb connector cable.

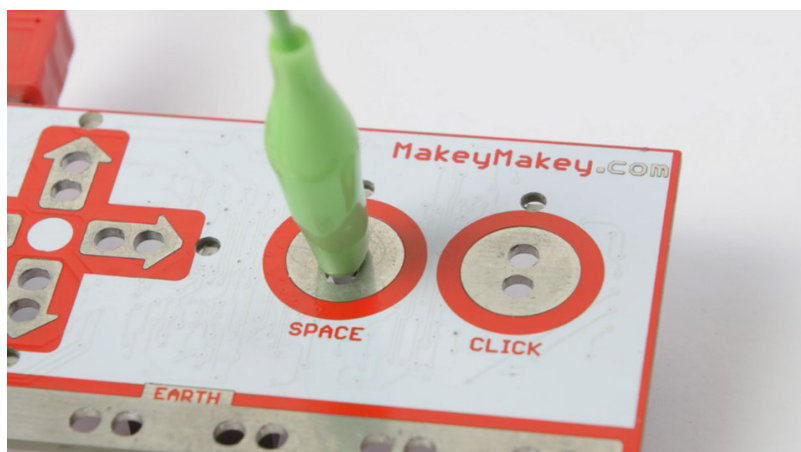
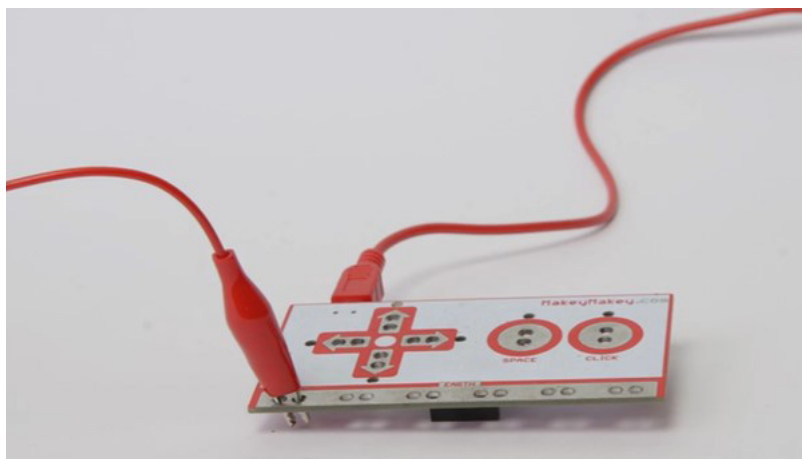


CONNECT THE MAKEY MAKEY CIRCUIT BOARD TO YOUR COMPUTER (2:08)

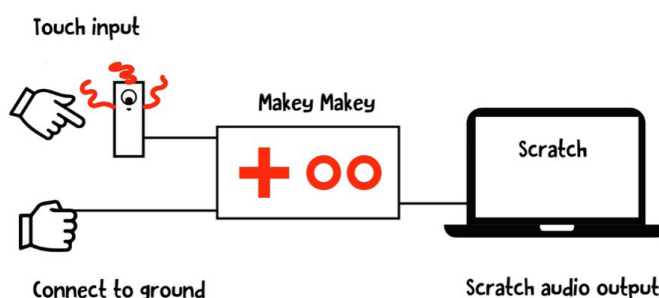
Connect the small end of the USB connector cable to the MakeyMakey circuit board. Connect the thicker end to the USB port on your computer.

CONNECT YOUR CREATIVE CONTROLLER TO THE CIRCUIT BOARD (2:20)

Now let's connect our creature to the circuit board, so we can use it as a controller for our Exquisite Corpse game. Take the RED wire, and using the alligator clips connect one end to the EARTH section of the Makey Makey circuit Board. Take the GREEN wire, and connect one end to the SPACE section of the circuit board, then connect the other end to the foil tab we created on your creature.

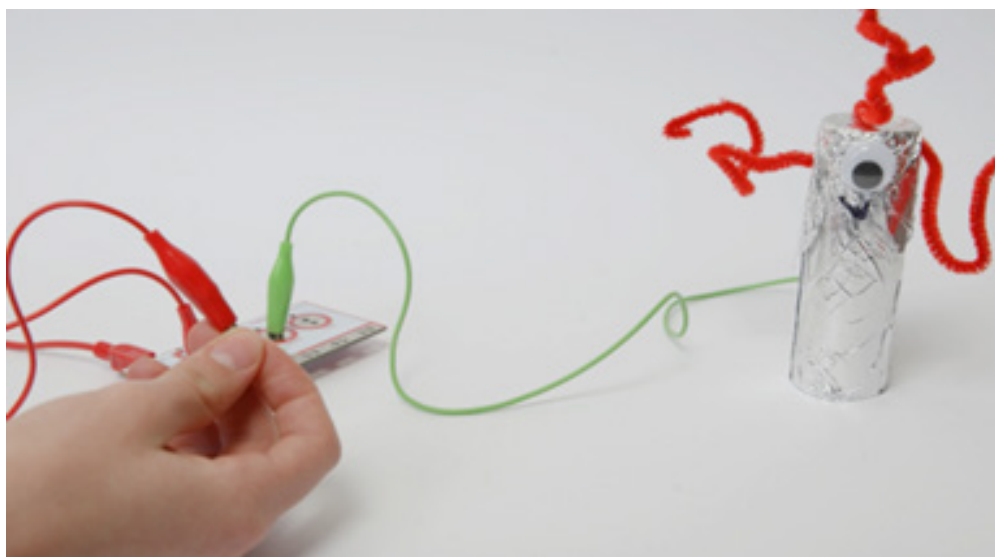


Makey Makey works by making an electrical circuit. Some materials are conductors – they let electricity flow through them, and some are not. Foil is a conductor and so are you!!



USING THE CONTROLLER (3:07)

To use your creature as a controller, hold the other end of the RED wire in your hand, ensuring your skin is touching the metal of the clip. You complete the circuit allowing the electrical current to flow.



Open the Scratch program Exquisite Corpse: Make A Creature and press the green flag.

When you tap any of the foil sections of your creature, you should see a light on the Makey Makey controller. Your computer will register the creative controller as the spacebar being pressed to play the Exquisite Corpse game!

TROUBLE SHOOTING (3:46)

Is your button not working?

Try some of the following:

- Make sure your wires are attached to the circuit board and foil correctly
- Remember to hold the RED earth wire in your hand, with the metal touching your skin
- Try holding your finger down for just a second, before pulling away. You might be moving too quickly for the electrical circuit to be complete and the computer to register your button!

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