



The process of creating an

ANIMATED FILM



PREPARATION

A very extensive amount of work goes into every animated film. For many films, animators will go on research trips to locations that inspired the setting of the film in order to make the film's setting as accurate and real as possible. Animators also draw countless pieces of concept art in order to develop the look of the characters and setting of the film.



Concept art for the main character, Tiana, from the 2009 film *The Princess and the Frog*.



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Storyboard from *Lilo & Stitch*

THE PRE-ANIMATION STEPS

Before the animators officially start drawing out the scenes, the film needs to go through these 5 steps. First of all, the script needs to be written. After the script is written, the animators will develop storyboards, which are rough sketches of the scene done on small sheets of paper. Next, they will record a "scratch track" which includes character dialogue and a rough cut of the musical score. Then, they need to sync the storyboards with the scratch track in order to make the animatic. And finally, they will design the settings and lighting for a scene in the process known as layout.

NOW, THE ACTUAL ANIMATION PROCESS BEGINS!



In traditional 2D animation, animators draw out each scene frame-by-frame. They draw each frame by hand using a special light table, as shown on the right.



INK AND PAINT

Ink and Paint is the final process in a 2D animated film where the animation is prepared for the final photography of it. Each drawing is copied onto a cel which is a thin and clear plastic sheet of paper. Once the outline of the character or item is drawn onto the cel, color and shading are added. The cel is then placed against the background for the scene and photographed. That frame will then be stitched together with every other frame, and the movie is made.