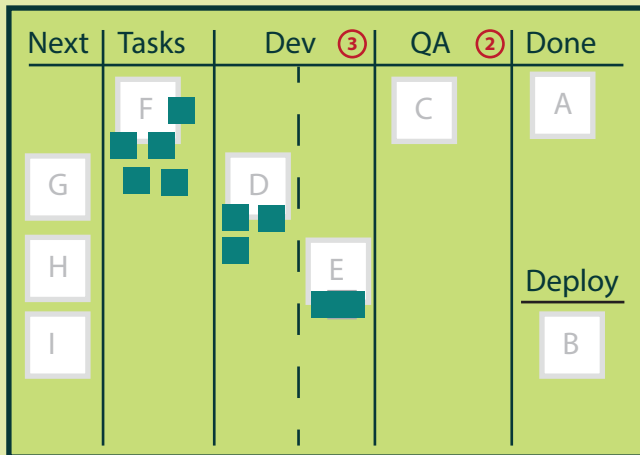# Kanban

Developed at Toyota in the 1940's, designed as a pull-based, self-stocking system for automobile production. Adopted as a software development management technique in 2003, focusing on "work in progress" limitation to achieve short cycle times (= time from start to finish). The 5 steps:

Visualize the Workflow 1

Next	Tasks	Dev ③	QA ②	Done
	F		C	A
G		D		
H		E		**Deploy**
I				B

Identify the stages in your project. Capture them on a board. Each stage is a column. Cards represent the tasks that have to go through in process.

Limit Work-In-Progress 2

Limit the maximum workload on specific stages. Because tasks are pulled from column to column not pushed, each stage can only work on as many tasks as the next stages allow. This way you won't overload your team members and can identify bottlenecks.

Manage Flow 3

Is cycle time going up or down? Where are bottlenecks? Is something stuck somewhere, or should tasks be merged/split up?

4 Explicit Policies

Identify and define policies for standard tasks, tasks with fixed delivery dates, intangible tasks, etc. Make sure that even exceptional tasks are well integrated into the process.

Policy
Poli

Feedback Loops & Continuous Improvement 5

Reflect!

Talk about what worked and what didn't. Identify bottlenecks and fix them. Kanban is evolutionary and lives of the experiments you do with WIPs, policies, etc. Run the experiments using a scientific method.