

Introducing:



Frames is a **Tech4Learning** Product. (<http://www.tech4learning.com>)

*“Frames is the **award winning** educational software for stop-motion animation, claymation, and digital storytelling. Creating illustrated animations, movies, and digital stories engages students in the curriculum, encourages problem solving, promotes creativity, and helps students develop 21st century skills. Students can use **Frames** to create movies, animated GIFs, and Flash animations to share with the world.”* (<http://www.tech4learning.com/frames>)

Online Resources:

<http://www.tech4learning.com/frames> - includes video samples of different types of Frames 4 projects (watch the overview video)

<http://www.tech4learning.com/frames/training> - the Tech4Learning **Frames 4 Training Centre** (includes the pdf file of the basic User Guide, tutorials and much more.)

http://www.tech4learning.com/userfiles/file/pdfs/Frames/Frames4_UserGuide.pdf - the basic **User Guide**

<http://recipes.tech4learning.com> - **Recipes4Success** - Recipes, Snacks, Lesson Library, how-to's, etc. - this is available in the 'Help' menu when you open Frames 4

Let's explore the Frames interface:

- 1) Frame List, Storyboard and buttons
- 2) Tool Bar
- 3) Options / Library Menus
- 4) Timeline
- 5) Player Controls
- 6) Menus at Top

Let's try 3 Simple Projects:

1) Illustrated Animation (Simplified Project Instructions from http://recipes.tech4learning.com/index.php?page_ac=view&type=tutorials&ref_id=355014)

- open Library > Clip Art > Life Cycles > (Ladybug) Butterfly > Green Arrow
- resize butterfly, move to bottom left corner, just off page
- add text, ie.
Dreams of golden fields
Flying on gossamer wings
Endless summer days
- resize text box, change font and / or size using Options, move text to top of the page
- to duplicate the Frame, click the Frame in the Frame list on the left, click the Duplicate button
- choose second frame, move the butterfly so the whole butterfly show, choose the 'Select' button on the toolbar, choose Skew, handles will turn orange, 'skew' butterfly
- go to View menu and choose Collapse Frame List - the last frame is still selected, hold down Shift key and select first Frame so that both frames are selected, click the Duplicate button 4 times - you now have 10 frames in the animation
- Save
- Click Storyboard tab, reposition the butterfly on frames 3 - 10
- click Play to preview
- to change speed, click Options tab, slide duration slider from .5 to .4 or other
- click first frame and Play to preview
- to change background, click Library > Home > Pics4Learning > Backgrounds > Nature - then control click on the image and select 'Set Page Background'
- to set this background for all frames, select Options > Apply to all Frames
- preview
- to add music, click on first frame, choose Library > Home > Sounds > Music - then choose your music and click on the green arrow to insert music - it will appear in the timeline
- preview
- to export as a movie, click Make > Presentation - then choose where you would like to save it
- watch as a Quick Time Movie!

2) Chroma Key (Simplified Project Instructions from http://recipes.tech4learning.com/recipes/view.php?type=tutorials&ref_id=365001&ref=0)

- open Library > Tutorials > Blue Screen > Drag the Blue Screen folder into the work area
- choose Edit > Chroma Key - click the On radio button, click the eye dropper tool and move the cursor over the blue background (you may not have to do this) - drag the Tolerance Slider so that no blue is showing but you still see all of the flamingo
- click the first flamingo frame - you should see a white background
- to change the background, choose Library > Pics4Learning > Backgrounds > History > choose barn_white - Control-Click on the image and choose Set Frame Background
- to add the background to all frames, choose Options > Apply to All Frames
- add a title frame and end frame (change background colour, add and edit text) - title and end frames should stay on screen a little longer than the others
- to add music, click Library > Sounds > Music > 'By the Sea'

- save and preview
- to save as Quick Time Movie - click Make and follow instructions

3) Clay Animation (Simplified Instructions from http://recipes.tech4learning.com/index.php?page_ac=view&type=tutorials&ref_id=255007)

- open Library > Tutorials > Clay Animation > Drag this folder to the work area
- choose all the frames, copy and paste
- save and preview
- drag and reorder the frames to create a more 'random' movement
- adjust length of each frame
- add title and end frames, adjust length
- animate the text in the Options Menu
- add transitions between first and last frames and the animation
- to add sound, open Library > Sounds > Music > Cartoon
- to add a thought bubble to a slide, choose a bubble from the Shapes menu, then add a text box over it
- save and preview
- to save as a Quick Time Movie, click Make and follow instructions

Let's play!

- look at some other tutorials, recipes or snacks and try some out
- look at some examples of Claymation Videos or other Frames projects
- Q / A, problem solving

Let's brainstorm some ways to use Frames 4 with our students:

1) Illustrated Animation

- illustrate a student poem
- illustrate a main idea
- introduce a character
- highlight an important event or happening
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2) Chroma Key

- create student news reports from somewhere else in the world
- become a historical character from somewhere in the world
- use chroma key with animated figures and put them in any chosen scene
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3) Clay Animation

- depict a historical event
- tell or retell a story
- Hold an 'Animation in a Day' - from start to finish, create a Stop Start Animation Movie in a day!
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