

Kidpix Animations



Hello and welcome to a workshop that will introduce the basis for creating animations using a programme called Kidpix.

The process is not difficult although skills in using the drawing tools is needed. - If you don't know much about these tools don't worry you will get plenty of practise in this workshop!

Essentially we are making a Kidpix Slide show with some added twists!

We will save the slide show as a "Quicktime Movie" and this will allow the movie to be played as you would expect a normal movie to be played.



Why should we use images and animations within our classroom programme?

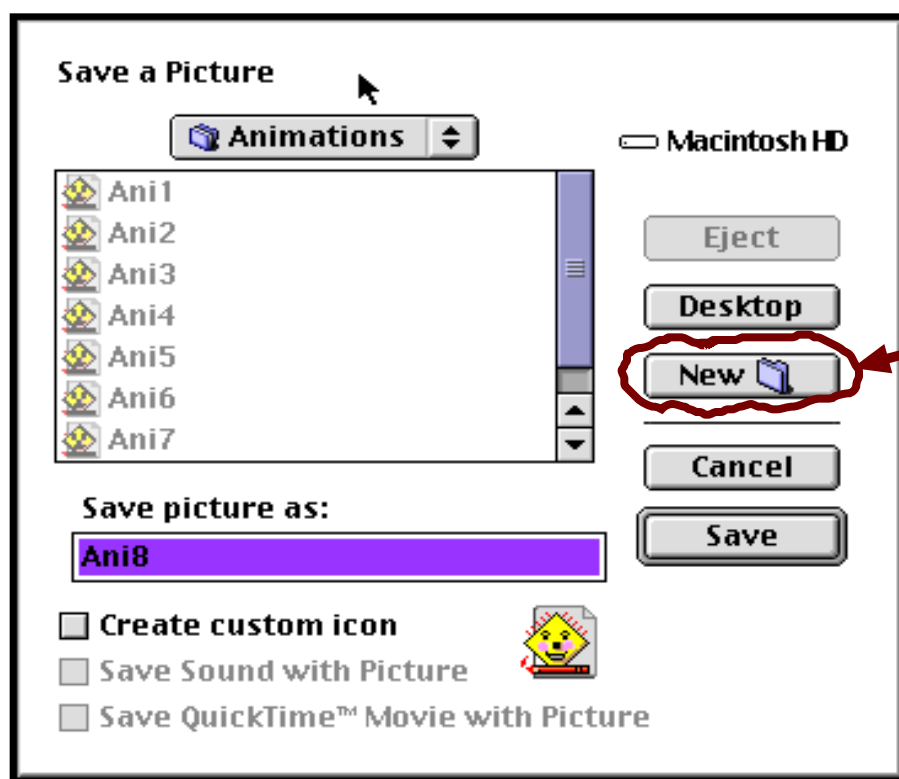
Our brains are essentially designed to store images. Our memory relies heavily on images - just close your eyes and think of a time that you really enjoyed yourself - my guess is that you would have seen an image or a movie like sequence. - Here then is a good way to match the way that we learn to our teaching and learning programmes.

Think of a short story that you would like to tell - my story was of a dinosaur that was happily feeding on a berry tree when it was frightened away by another dinosaur.

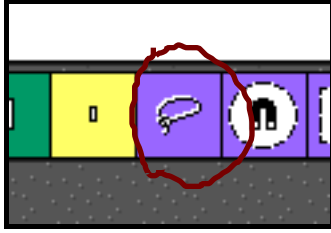
Think about a beginning, middle and end of a story - this is great to get children to sequence their ideas.

First start to make the objects that you want to animate.

Save these images with small changes as separate Kidpix pictures - you will be able to cut and paste these pictures into their own pages - don't forget to save the Kidpix pictures either! (Also make the names sequential and logical - eg. "dino1" etc. Saving them into their own folder is also a very good idea!)



Use this button to make another folder



If you have Kidpix Studio Deluxe then using the "truck" (selection tool) is easy because you can select the lasso tool and cut closely into the object - this will make pasting into a coloured background easier.



Cutting and pasting into the background allows you to resize the pictures easily as well.

Remember that the smaller the changes that you make will mean a smoother running animation sequence.

Make about ten pictures - or more if time allows.
The Dinosaur movie had about 42 different frames (separate pictures).
Now make the slide show!



After adding in all the pictures that you made - move the timing slider at the bottom of each truck till it reads 1 second (or 0 secs if you want the object to move really fast!)



If you want to add sound then record the sounds that you want as you make the slide show (this will change the timing of the slides however)

Now save the Slide show - as a slide show first of all so that you can modify the movie later.



IBM users will see "Save as an AVI"

Also save the Slide show as a "Quicktime Movie". - This will allow it to be viewed in the "Wacky TV" section of Kidpix.

There you have it! - you've just made an animation!

You've probably used alot of problem solving along the way - this is to be expected - and valued!

Have fun with the animations and the children will too.

Thanks for your time.

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