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Tell a story with Windows Live Movie Maker
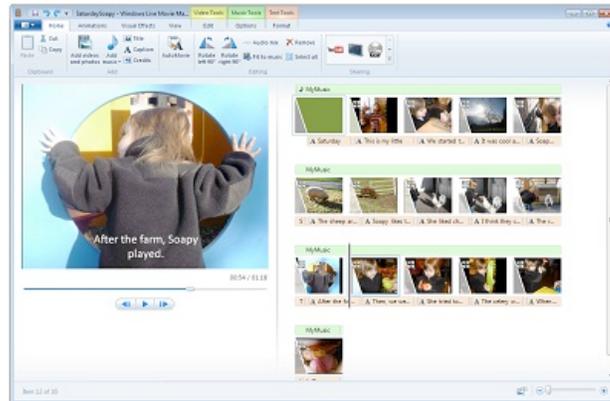Software required: Windows Live Movie Maker

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For most children, life is a blur. It's difficult for them to view life from a broad enough perspective to recognize the sequence of life's events, the myriad of human interactions, and how all of the stories fit together. One way to help students develop this higher perspective and learn the basics of storytelling is to create simple movies with still images and text. For example, students can take digital photos of the activities and people they experience during a typical day and then create a movie with them. They could even publish the movie to an Internet site to share with others.

Sequence events

Windows Live Movie Maker (Windows Movie Maker in Microsoft Windows XP and Windows Vista) is a movie and image-editing tool. With Movie Maker, students can experiment with the best ways to arrange their photos to tell the story of their day. In doing so, they learn which elements hold the viewer's attention and make for good storytelling. Students can add titles, effects, movement, transitions, and even a music track to create a finished product. After saving the final movie, students can upload their work to a site, such as YouTube or their Windows Live Space, and share it with you, their families, and others in their class.
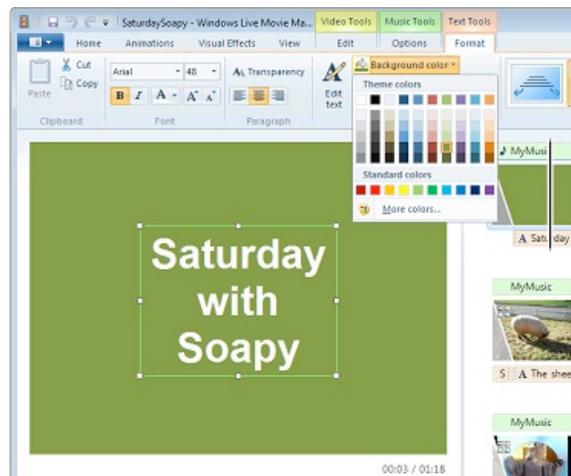

Use Windows Live Movie Maker to help students tell the story of their day. View larger image

Make a movie about a day in your life

1. Pick an interesting day, and bring your camera with you wherever you go. In the example,

the student focuses on the experiences of his little sister. Plan on taking more pictures than you will need for your movie. That way, you'll have plenty of pictures to choose from. For example, if you want to make a one-minute movie and show each picture for about five seconds, you will need at least 12 pictures for the movie. To make sure you have enough to choose from, shoot at least 30 pictures.

2. Upload the pictures to your computer.

3. Open Windows Live Movie Maker and, on the **Home** tab, click **Add videos and photos**.

4. Select the pictures that you want in your movie. Hold down the CTRL key to select multiple files. Then, click **Open**. The pictures are added to the storyboard area on the right.

5. To play the movie, click the **Play** button on the media player. The cursor moves across the rows of pictures as the movie plays. By default, each picture shows for five seconds.

6. To edit your movie, do any of the following:

   - To move a picture, drag it to a new position.

   - To delete a picture, select it and press DELETE.

   - To add a picture, click **Add videos and photos** on the **Home** tab.

   - To change how long a picture displays, select the picture, and then, on the **Video Tools Edit** tab, change the duration.

7. After you have chosen your images, placed them in the sequence you like, and adjusted the timing, you can do more:

   - To add titles, click where you want to add a title slide in the storyboard. On the **Home** tab, click **Title** and type the title. Click the **Text Tools Format** tab to change the formatting and add a background color.

View larger image

   - To add captions, click the picture. On the **Home** tab, click **Caption** and type the caption. Click the **Text Tools Format** tab to change the formatting. Drag the text container borders to change the shape of the container or to move the caption.

   - To add movement, click the picture. On the **Animations** tab, in the **Pan and Zoom** group, click the **More** button, and select an option in the gallery.

   - To add transitions, click the picture. On the **Animations** tab, in the **Transitions** group, click the **More** button, and select an option in the gallery.

   - To play music with the pictures, on the **Home** tab, click **Add music**, and then click Add music or **Add music at the current point**. Browse for the music file that you want to use, and then click **Open**.

8. When you finish the movie, on the **Home** tab, in the **Sharing** group, click the **More** button. Then, choose how you want to save the final movie file.

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