Windows Movie Maker

(From Microsoft)

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Overview

Windows Movie Maker allows one to create, edit and share movies. Digital photos and/or videos can be used to create movies. Additionally, images from the Internet can be used in Movie Maker. Special effects, music, and narration can be added to the movie as well. Windows Movie Maker does exactly what it sounds like; it makes movies. Windows Movie Maker brings the power of video production into the hands of everyday users.

Cost Information

Windows Movie Maker is free. Windows Movie Maker is shipped with Microsoft Windows Vista and XP. Also Windows Movie maker can be downloaded from the Internet at http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/moviemaker2.mspx.

The icon for Windows Movie Maker is [image]. Once Windows Movie Maker is opened the following is the first screen you see.

Click here to view in timeline format

Drag pictures or videos from the collection section here to begin the movie

Drag transitions here
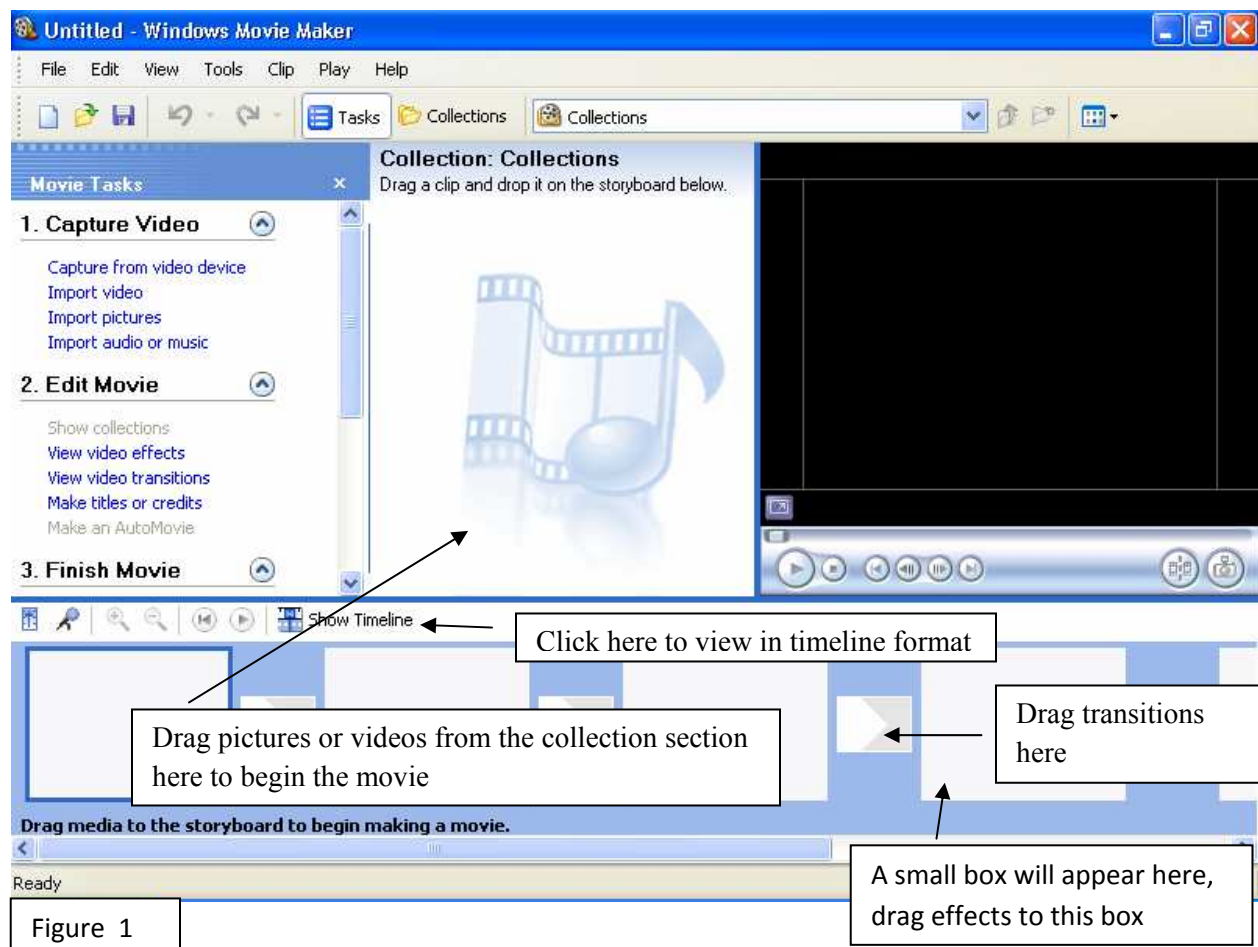
A small box will appear here, drag effects to this box

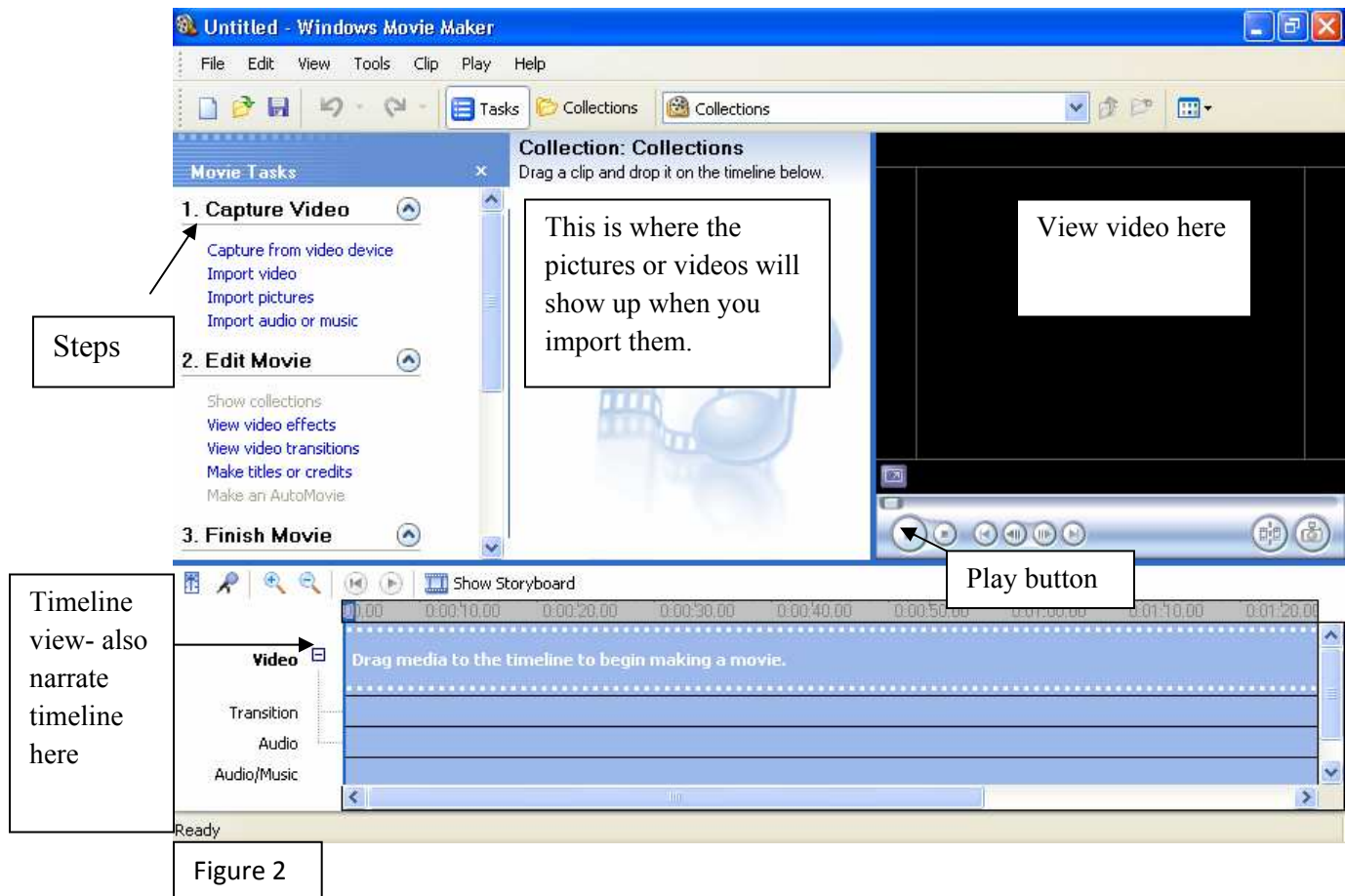Figure 1

How to use Windows Movie Maker

Once Windows Movie Maker is opened, it will look like Figure 1. Follow the step-by-step instructions to begin.

1. Importing video, pictures, music or audio for the movie – On the left side you will see each of these things- choose one at a time to import from a certain location.

2. Once video clips or pictures are imported, drag the media located in the collections area in the middle of the screen to the storyboard (which looks like rectangles on the bottom of the screen.

3. If you imported music or audio that needs to be in the video, you must click on the show timeline view (which is just above the storyboard). To see what this screen looks like, look below the directions.

4. In the timeline view drag the audio from the collections area in the middle of the screen to the audio line.

5. To edit your movie, it is easiest to go back to the storyboard (it is located just above the timeline).

6. Click on the view video effects to change things about your picture (rotating to color). Drag the effect you choose to the picture or video you would like it to effect.

7. To insert transitions, click on the view video transitions and to insert the transitions drag the transition in between the two pictures or videos you would like that transition between.

8. To add a title or insert credits, click on the make titles or credits button on the left side of the screen. Once this is opened type in your information. You may also change the text and background color of that screen here.

9. To view your work before you save for the final movie, click the triangle under the black screen to see if you need to make any more final touches.

10. The last step is finishing the movie. Here you may save it to your computer or a different location. You may also email the movie out.

For a more detailed list of directions visit one of the following websites.
http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/default.mspx or
http://coe.winthrop.edu/educ651/07_files/Movie_Maker.pdf

Figure 2

Benefits and Drawbacks

Benefits	Drawbacks
Windows Movie Maker can edit .avi files and .wmv files. This allows for flexibility for operation of the program on different platforms. Different users can access the program as long as they have access to an appropriate platform for the Movie Maker format.	Windows Movie Maker only has basic effects or transitions. There is not a large amount of effects and transitions. This leaves the user to come up with more ways to modify the presentation they are producing.
Windows Movie Maker has a simple look and easy for anyone to use. This makes it easy for any user, even those with very little computer skills.	Windows Movie Maker only outputs WMV videos. This in essence limits the usefulness of the program. It is not able to play on many platforms. Windows Movie Maker will only play on PCs. This can pose problems for those changing schools where the computer

	hardware may not be the same.
Windows Movie Maker has easy editing by inserting effects and transitions.	Windows Movie Maker has minimal effects and transitions.
In the timeline view, Windows Movie Maker splits video and audio into separate categories. This allows for easier synchronization of the voice and the video. It is much easier to edit video and audio and then realign them for the presentation.	When opening a file on Windows Movie Maker it often takes a long time to load.
Users can save it on a hard disk or CD, send it in an e-mail, or send it to a video hosting provider on the Web. Teachers are then able to share the presentation for similar lessons. For example, departments in science could use Movie Maker for a safety presentation and all classes could use the video to teach students interactively.	Windows Movie Maker has tendency to freeze frequently. The user must constantly save the work or risk losing the progress they have on their project.

Environmental Factors

There are many environmental factors to consider in using Windows Movie Maker. As an educator you should consider that all students do not have a prior knowledge of Windows Movie Maker and the other programs you may decide to use to record audio. This will mean you will have to spend time teaching how to use the different programs and allow the student's time to master the programs.

Teachers must also consider the number of computers they have in their rooms when putting students in groups. If one has three computers, three groups could be assigned or one will have to discuss the program with three groups at a time and then call the next set of groups up, which could be very time consuming. Also students will need a quiet place to edit their movie. They will need microphones to insert their voices into the movie.

Possible Uses in Various Subject Areas

Many different subject area teachers could use Windows Movie Maker. They could use it to present information to students or the students could use Windows Movie Maker for a project to demonstrate knowledge. For example, a history teacher could have students act out a battle scene such as the Battle of Kings Mountain. This would show the teacher that the students

truly understand the events that occurred at Kings Mountain and the effects they had on the armies. Another example could be a science teacher would show part of a streamline clip (an online database of videos, quizzes, speeches, etc. provided by the state of South Carolina) about safety in chemistry without the audio and the students would create audio for the streamline clip. Again, this would show the teacher that the students understand safety in a science lab. A teacher could create a movie for the beginning of the year about him/herself as a way of introducing him/herself to parents.

Windows Movie Maker can also be used to create video greeting cards, insurance videos, or vacation movies. Students can be given a beginning of the year project to describe themselves and the activities they did over the summer. This is a useful way for the teacher to get an early grade and introduce the students to the technology to be used in the classroom. Teachers can also use the video to present to the students rules and procedures in the classroom. This could be a project from a previous year and use actual students from a past class to show the rules and procedures of the class.

In my special education classroom, the majority of the students do not like to write. I have used Windows Movie Maker as a way for students to publish their writing. This encourages them to generate a topic and relevant details in order to produce a movie. Many of my students, who are low socioeconomic status, do not have a lot of technology such as computers or digital cameras. Doing this project also shows students how to use computers and cameras. Once their story is written, I review it with them. Once I approve the story, the students get to work. I always have them in groups to create a movie. They are required to take turns using the camera, importing pictures and choosing transitions. Windows Movie Maker allows you to narrate the timeline, but I choose to use Audacity (a program to edit and record audio) because it allows the students to edit the audio more than Windows Movie Maker. Visit http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/ to download Audacity to your computer. To learn review more information about Audacity visit http://www.aaevp.com/techniques/techniques_evp_using_audacity.htm or http://www.depauw.edu/music/mitc/instructional/helpguides/audacity_quick_guide.pdf. In order to insert a narration in Windows Movie Maker, you must be in the timeline view.

For further ideas on uses of Windows Movie Maker visit the following websites:
- http://www.microsoft.com/education/moviemaker.mspx
- http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001585.shtml
- http://www.lesd.k12.or.us/insttech/vtc/moviemaker.html
- http://cuip.net/~bbird/teachingguide.htm
- http://www.windowsmoviemakers.net/Forums/Default.aspx

NETS

National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for Students	How Windows Movie Maker addresses these standards
1.A. Students apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or process.	Some students have existing knowledge of how to use a digital camera. They also have existing knowledge about writing on paper and then recording for audio. Each student has used a computer at some point during his or her life.
1.B. Students create original works as a means of personal or group expression.	The students create their own stories. I give little guidance about the story only a genre, once we have studied it. They work together to get pictures taken or video clips recorded.
2.A. Students interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.	The students work together to take pictures, record video clips, and record audio. They use various materials such as the digital camera, microphones, and recording programs such as audacity. They also work together to edit and insert transitions.
2.C. Students develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures.	Students could use this to record movies and show other cultures what their culture is like by uploading their movie to the Internet. In my classroom we have several cultures and students are working together, therefore they are interacting with people of other cultures other than their own.
2.D. Students contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.	The students are encouraged to work together to create a work of their choice. The teacher must approve their ideas before they are allowed to begin the task. The students are required to work together to create a narration before they produce a video or take photos. Each student is required to do narrations in the

	assignment.
3.B. Students locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.	Students have to use their prior knowledge to know where to locate information. They also can locate sound clips such as songs to incorporate in their movie. At the end of their movie they are required to put a special thanks page to people that have helped them and also include in resources such as websites that they used.
4.B. Students plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project.	Students are given a timeline of what needs to be completed by a certain time. Each student also has a job to make sure the group is doing what they need to do and doing it in a timely manner. Assigning roles helps students manage and complete the movie.
5.C. Students demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.	Students research a topic of interest and are responsible for the content they put in the project. Also another lifelong skill of using a computer is being addressed. Computers are already a vital part of many jobs and students need an understanding of how to use them.
6.A. Students understand and use technology systems.	Students have to have an understanding of Audacity, digital cameras, and Windows Movie Maker. Students have to know how to use Audacity to record their voices reading their story. Then they have to know how to use the digital camera in order to take pictures or to record segments for their movie. Finally, they have to know how to use Windows Movie Maker to put everything together and produce the movie.
6.B. Students select and use applications effectively and productively.	Students are told which programs to use to produce a final movie product. They are required to use these programs to create an interactive project. They must use Windows Movie Maker to edit and insert transitions to

	enhance their movie.
6.D. Students transfer current knowledge to learning of new technology.	The students learn the Windows Movie Maker program through prior knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint. The majority of my older students, fourth and fifth grade have used Microsoft PowerPoint to complete a project for another class. These students use that prior knowledge and it benefits them so they understand what transitions do and the storyboard layout can do.

Overall, I believe that Windows Movie Maker could benefit any classroom. It can be adapted for any age group and any content area. It is a free, simple program to use for movie creations. Windows Movie Maker is a versatile program that allows students to create projects in a non-traditional format. Windows Movie Maker is a user-friendly program for students and teachers.

Resources

http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/create/default.mspx This website shows how to add special touches to your movie and also gives ideas about projects to create.

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/335710/windows_movie_maker_review.html?cat=15 This article gave some positives and negatives about Windows Movie Maker.

http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb490844.aspx#EEAA This website gave positives as well as the purpose of Windows Movie Maker.

http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/default.mspx This website allows you do download Windows Movie Maker as well as a users guide.

http://www.windowsmoviemakers.net/Articles/WMM2Review.aspx This is an article that tells how Windows Movie Maker has changed through the different versions as well as how to edit movies.

http://coe.winthrop.edu/educ651/07_files/Movie_Maker.pdf This website will give step-by-step instructions on how to use Windows Movie Maker. It also lists other places to find more tutorials for Windows Movie Maker.

http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/ This is the website to download Audacity the audio recording and editing software.

http://www.aaevp.com/techniques/techniques_evp_using_audacity.htm A link for directions on how to use Audacity.

http://www.depauw.edu/music/mitc/instructional/helpguides/audacity_quick_guide.pdf This link is also more directions for using Audacity.

The following are websites that contain ideas for using Windows Movie Maker:

http://www.microsoft.com/education/moviemaker.mspx

http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001585.shtml

http://www.lesd.k12.or.us/insttech/vtc/moviemaker.html

http://cuip.net/~bbird/teachingguide.htm

http://www.windowsmoviemakers.net/Forums/Default.aspx