

Exploring Scratch

5 (or so) sites & 10 videos

Read this column online, with links, at www.littleclickers.com/exploringscratch

Scratch is a free, easy-to-learn computer language that is growing in popularity. Did you know there are six types of projects you can make? Can you name them? Let's take a closer look, at <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/all>

1. Animations. Use the camera and timing features to make things move on the screen. Learn more at <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/animations/>

2. Art. Scratch has built in drawing tools that make it possible draw in freestyle. You can also create interesting geometric patterns. See the examples at <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/art/>

3. Games. From Pong to Pokémon, you can find all sorts of games in Scratch. Maze games are good to start with, because they introduce you to motion and collisions. <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

4. Music. Scratch gives you a library of sounds, or you can record your own. Listen to the examples at <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/music/>

5. Stories. You can mix your writing with pictures, videos or recordings. In fact, Scratch makes it easy to narrate your story. Visit <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/stories/>

6. Tutorials. What to teach somebody how to train a puppy or build a treehouse? Make your own tutorial, at <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/tutorials/>

APPLICATION How do I start with Scratch? Scratch won't work with mobile devices, so you'll need a Chromebook or Laptop (Windows or Mac) plus good internet access. A camera and microphone is recommended. Follow these three steps.

Step 1: Go Online and Find Scratch. On your computer, type the word "Scratch" into any search engine, or go to <http://mit.scratch.edu>

Step 2: Register. Think up a screen name and password. You'll also need an email address in order to confirm the account. Login, and choose "Create."

Step 3: Take the tutorials. We've linked to some tutorials in this month's YouTube playlist. It's also smart to preview samples. https://scratch.mit.edu/starter_projects/



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Scratch on YouTube

Want more? Here's a video playlist that go along with this column
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjcOmKeifVUUH5s4E4OrMhg>

