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# Path Buttons

Use the path buttons on the path bar on the left of your screen to search for the information you need. Each button offers a different way to look at the encyclopedia's contents. For more details on each path, click on the green path name below.

Use **Find** to see alphabetical listings of the contents of the encyclopedia or to conduct search queries about a specific topic. Use the Table of Contents portion to scroll through lists to select an item to open, or use the Search portion to type a question or phrase that describes a topic, and the program displays a list of articles, pictures, movies, sounds, and tables that contain information related to your request.

Use the **Atlas** to explore Earth and learn about the many places on the planet. Click on a location to spin the globe, or zoom in for a better view. Click on a place name to see an article about that place.

Use **Timeline** to learn about U.S. and world history. Scan through a timeline of world history that begins billions of years ago. Or browse the timeline that charts U.S. history since 1485. Click on a picture or event box to learn about the item's place in history.

Use **InfoLinks** to find groups of articles that are related to a topic. Type a topic, and the program searches for articles that are related to your subject. Five related articles are displayed in windows on the screen, each extended by additional article titles.

Use **Topic Tree** to see the articles in the encyclopedia arranged by topic and subtopic. Browse through the lists to narrow your area of interest until you find an article you want to see.

Use **Explore** to enter one of six thematic settings where you can click on all sorts of objects to explore a world of facts and fun. You'll see pictures, videos, and text, and hear music, speech, and sounds as you learn about space, news, history, animals, and more.

Use **Planetarium** (*Windows 95 only*) to see maps of the night sky from any place on the globe at any time of year. The celestial maps include star names, constellation shapes and boundaries, and astronomical phenomena such as galaxies, nebulae, and planets.

Use **ShowMaker** to create shows filled with facts and multimedia drawn from the encyclopedia. Then add your own narration. Create electronic reports for school, shows for your family, games to play with friends, and presentations just for fun.

Use **Online** to connect to the world of online services by launching any commercial online service or any Internet access software. **Online** provides access to Monthly Updater, monthly downloads of new articles, updates, and new Web site links. Visit sites that offer up-to-date information, engage in an online conversation, and send e-mail to friends and family. On selected services, you can access *Compton's NewMedia Forum* which has the *Compton's Living Encyclopedia*<sup>™</sup>. Use *Compton's Living Encyclopedia* to find updated articles, tips for parents and teachers, learning games, and more.



# The Information Icons

As you explore the articles in *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, you'll encounter many kinds of data text, sound, animations, maps, tables, and more. Every piece of information in the encyclopedia can be found through the paths—Find and InfoLinks, for example. Or you can access the multimedia from within the articles as you read them. Here is a list of icons that lead to different types of data.

The **Animation** icon looks like a short piece of film. Click on this icon to view an animation sequence.

The **Another Look** icon resembles an eye. Click on this icon to see an explanation of a difficult concept in the encyclopedia.

The **Article** icon resembles an open book. Click on this icon to view another article with related information.

The **Article with Online Update** icon resembles a book with a sheet of paper inserted in it. This icon indicates an article that contains an update downloaded using the Monthly Updater feature.

The **Atlas** icon resembles a globe or planet. Click on this icon to open the Atlas path to a location related to the current article.

The **Chart** icon looks like a small pie chart and table. Click on this icon to see a related chart.

The **Dictionary/Thesaurus** icon looks like a capital "D." Click on this icon to open the Dictionary/Thesaurus.

The **Fact** icon resembles a 3x5 index card. Click on this icon to see a short, informative article on a related topic.

The **Flag** icon looks like a small flag. Click on this icon to see the flag of the country or state in the article.

The **Map** icon is a small picture of North America. Click on this icon to see a map related to the article.

The **MIDI** icon shows musical notes on a staff. Click on this icon to hear a MIDI sound file and read more about the sound you hear.

The **More About** icon shows a page being turned. Click on this icon to see additional information about an idea discussed in the article.

The **New Article** icon resembles a book with an exclamation point on top. Click on this icon to open a new article added to the encyclopedia using the Monthly Updater feature.

The **New Fact** icon resembles a 3x5 index card with an exclamation point on top. Click on this icon to open a new fact added to the encyclopedia using the Monthly Updater feature.

The **Online Update** icon resembles a sheet of paper. Click on this icon to open an update to an article or fact that has been added using the Monthly Updater feature.

The **Planetarium Link** icon resembles the Big Dipper. Click on this icon to open the Planetarium path and display the object indicated in the night sky.

The **Picture** icon resembles a camera. Click on this icon to see an illustration or photograph related to the text.

The **Sidebar** icon shows text separated into two columns. Click on this icon to see a table, list, or another document related to the article.

The **Slide Show** icon looks like a photographic slide. Click on this icon to see a slide show related to the article.

The **Sound** icon resembles a pair of headphones. Click on this icon to hear a sound, quotation, or musical selection related to the article.

The **Table** icon shows three columns with the word "Table" at the top. Click on this icon to see a table related to the article.

The **Timeline** icon looks like an old-fashioned pocket watch. Click on this icon to see a view of a world or U.S. timeline related to the article.

The **Video** icon resembles a video or television camera. Click on this icon to see a video clip related to the subject of the article.

The **Web Site** icon resembles a phone. Click on this icon to connect to the Web site indicated in the article.

When you see purple text in an article, click on it to go to a related encyclopedia article or to a World Wide Web site that offers related information.

- Clicking on most icons and purple text displays information in one of the encyclopedia viewers. However, clicking on a Web Site icon or on a purple URL address actually opens your Internet browser software, taking you away from the encyclopedia program into your browser application.

# Quick Help for the Tableau

The contents of *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* are presented in a tableau screen, which can display three kinds of information viewers. Click on one of the green viewer titles below for more details.

- The **Article Viewer** displays encyclopedia articles, along with information icons that lead to related information.
- The **Multimedia Viewer** displays the multimedia contents, such as pictures, videos, and sounds.
- The **Path Viewer** displays the current path, such as Find, Topic Tree, or the Atlas.

The tableau can be configured in three different ways:

- The **basic tableau** displays a small Multimedia Viewer in the top left corner of the screen, a small Path Viewer below it, and a large Article Viewer along the right side of the screen.
- The **second configuration** displays a large Path Viewer along the left side of the screen with smaller Multimedia and Article Viewers to the right.
- The **third configuration** displays two large viewers only, the Path Viewer on the left and the Article or Multimedia Viewer on the right. The viewer on the right displays the last selection you opened from the Path Viewer.

Click on the **Views** Command Button to change the tableau configuration.

[Click here for more details on the Tableau and Viewers.](#)

# The Tableau & Viewers

The tableau screen frames the four main components of the *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* environment: the Path Bar that runs down the left edge of the screen, the Path Viewer, the Multimedia Viewer, and the Article Viewer. Here you can search for information, read articles, and view multimedia (including pictures, videos, slide shows, and animations) simultaneously. The Path Bar consists of icons that represent the nine unique paths that lead to the encyclopedia's contents. Using a path, you can find articles to read in the Article Viewer and multimedia to display in the Multimedia Viewer.

For instance, you might click on the **Find** icon in the Path Bar to open the Find path viewer, and locate the article *Volcano*. Double-clicking on the Volcano title in the Path Viewer displays the article in the Article Viewer. And double-clicking on the video icon that you find in the article displays a video about volcanoes in the Multimedia Viewer.

Any time you want to see more of the information in a viewer, click on the **Go to Full Screen** icon in the upper right corner of the viewer's title bar. The viewer will expand to fill the entire screen. Some viewers, such as the ones for the Atlas path and the Dictionary/Thesaurus, offer additional features in the full-screen viewer that are not available in the smaller tableau viewer. When you are displaying a full-screen viewer, press **F6** to switch between the Path, Multimedia, and Article Viewers. To return to the small tableau viewer, click on the new icon that appears in the upper right corner of the title bar, the **Go to Small Screen** icon.

Each viewer in the tableau has a menu of options that affect that viewer. To see the menu options available for the item displayed in the viewer, move your cursor over the viewer icon in the upper left corner of the viewer's title bar, or click on it or the title bar. The menu stays open until you choose an option or move the cursor off the menu.

Some viewers also offer buttons that let you perform specific functions, such as the buttons for controlling sounds and movies in the Multimedia Viewer. To see a description of a button, move your cursor over it on the encyclopedia screen.

In addition, the tableau includes four Command Buttons that perform general functions such as backtracking to a previously displayed screen and changing the tableau configuration.

For details on the viewers, click on a title below:

[The Path Bar & Buttons](#)

[The Path Viewer](#)

[The Multimedia Viewer](#)

[The Article Viewer](#)

[The Command Buttons](#)



# The Path Viewer

The buttons on the Path Bar represent the main avenues or "paths" into *Compton's* storehouse of information. Move your cursor over a path button to see a description of it. Click on a button to open a view into the encyclopedia in the Path Viewer.

Each path offers a different way to look at the encyclopedia's contents. For example, the Table of Contents in the Find path lists all the articles and multimedia in alphabetical order, so you can go directly to an article, picture, or other item by title. In contrast, the InfoLinks path broadens your view of a topic to show related articles, so you can ask the encyclopedia to brainstorm on an idea and learn about connections. The Path Viewer displays these tools and others, which you will use to find the information you want. Each path is described in its own chapter in the Help. See [Contents](#) to find the path chapters.

For an explanation of the menu options available in the Path Viewer, see [Path Viewer Menu Options](#).

# Path Viewer Menu Options

To see the menu options available for the item displayed in the viewer, move your cursor over the viewer icon in the upper left corner of the viewer's title bar, or click on it or the title bar. Some viewer items, such as the ones for the Explore and Online paths, do not have menus, but display a dialog box instead. And some viewer items, such as Atlas and InfoLinks, display more menu options in the full-screen viewer than in the small tableau viewer. Each viewer has unique menu options. The most common menu options are listed below.

## Print

Choose **Print** to print the item in the viewer.

## Bookmark

Choose **Bookmark** to create a bookmark for the current item so you can return to it easily. To see the list of bookmarks you've created and to return to a bookmarked item, choose **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar. See [The Menu Bar](#) for more information.

## Display/View

Choose **Display** or **View** to display the item named in this menu option.

## Get Item

Choose **Get Item** to display the item highlighted in the list.

# Quick Help for the Multimedia Viewer

The *Multimedia Viewer* displays the pictures, sounds, videos, animations, slide shows, tables, and other multimedia in the encyclopedia.

The following buttons and controls appear when sounds, videos, animations, and slide shows are displayed.

**Position Bar and Indicator:** Shows the playback position of the multimedia item. Click and drag the indicator to another position on the slider to view a different part of the multimedia item.

**VCR-style controls:** These buttons are similar to the ones on a VCR or cassette recorder. From left to right, you'll see the following buttons:

**Rewind to the beginning:** Goes back to the beginning of the multimedia item.

**Rewind:** Moves backward a short distance in the multimedia item.

**Fast Forward:** Jumps forward a short distance in the multimedia item.

**Play:** Starts playing the multimedia item.

**Stop:** Stops playing the multimedia item.

**To enlarge the Multimedia Viewer to full screen:**

Open the viewer menu and select **Go to Full Screen**. The Multimedia Viewer will grow to full-screen size, hiding the Article and Path Viewers.

**To change the size of a picture in the Multimedia Viewer:**

In the picture viewer, the **Show Actual Size** and the **Fit in Viewer** menu options alternate between the picture's actual size and the size that best fits within the viewer. If the picture is larger than the viewer window, the cursor changes into a handle as you move it across the picture. Click and drag the cursor to move other parts of the picture into view. Or click on the **Go to Full Screen** icon to display more of the image.

Although they are hidden, the other information viewers are still "active." When in full-screen mode, press **F6** to move between the three viewers. This function cycles through the information windows of the tableau: the Path Viewer, the Article Viewer, and back to the Multimedia Viewer.

# The Multimedia Viewer

The Multimedia Viewer displays pictures, videos, slide shows, animations, sounds, and tables. It also displays certain kinds of text, such as Facts, which are short articles; More About, which is an article feature that offers additional information about a topic in an article; Dictionary/Thesaurus entries; Side Bars; and Take Another Look.

When the viewer displays a video, slide show, animation, or sound, it includes controls much like the ones on your VCR or cassette player. When you open one of these items, the clip begins playing automatically. Use the control buttons to stop the playback and to move quickly from one part of the clip to another. Or click and drag the indicator on the Position Bar to move to another place in the clip.

The control buttons in the Multimedia Viewer are:

The **Position Bar and Indicator** shows the current position in the sequence. Click and drag the indicator to move to another place in the clip.

Click on **Rewind to the Beginning** to go to the beginning of the clip.

Click on the **Rewind** button to return to a previous frame in the clip.

Click on the **Fast Forward** button to move quickly forward through a clip.

Click on the **Play** button to begin playback.

Click on the **Stop** button to stop playing the clip.

For details on the dictionary and thesaurus, see [The Dictionary/Thesaurus](#).

For an explanation of the menu options available in the Multimedia Viewer, see [Multimedia Viewer Menu Options](#).

# Multimedia Viewer Menu Options

To see the menu options available for the item displayed in the viewer, move your cursor over the viewer icon in the upper left corner of the viewer's title bar, or click on it or the title bar. Depending on the item displayed in the viewer, the following menu options may be available.

## Copy

When text, a picture, or table is displayed, choose **Copy** to copy the item in the viewer to the clipboard. You can then paste the item in a word processor or another application.

## Print

When a picture, fact, or table is displayed, choose **Print** to print the item in the viewer.

## Bookmark

Choose **Bookmark** to create a bookmark for the current item so you can return to it easily. To see the list of bookmarks you've created and to return to a bookmarked item, choose **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar. See the [Menu Bar](#) for more information.

## Choose Playback Size

When a video, slide show, or animation is displayed, the **Choose Playback Size** option lets you change the playback size up to full-screen. At the maximum size, the clip begins playing automatically. Click anywhere to stop the playback.

## Show Actual Size/Fit in Viewer

When a picture is displayed, these options alternate between the picture's actual size and the size that best fits within the viewer. If the picture is larger than the viewer window, the cursor changes into a handle as you move it across the picture. Click and drag the cursor to move other parts of the picture into view. Or choose **Go to Full Screen** from the viewer menu to display more of the image.

## Freeze Headings

When a table is displayed, choose **Freeze Headings** to lock the first row and column of the table into place. When frozen, column and row headings stay in view while you use the scroll bars to see the rest of the information in the table. Choose **Freeze Headings** again to unlock them.

## Go to Related Item

Choose **Go to Related Item** to see a list of related items in the encyclopedia. Select an item from the list to display it in a viewer.

# Quick Help for the Article Viewer

The Article Viewer displays the articles in the encyclopedia. Most articles in the Article Viewer also contain information icons, which represent links to multimedia features in the encyclopedia.

## **To see the definition of a word in an article:**

Double-click on a word in the Article Viewer.

## **To see related multimedia:**

Click on one of the multimedia icons that appear in most articles.

## **To jump to a cross-reference article:**

Click on the purple text. This text, along with the words "See" or "See also," indicates an article related to the current one.

## **To launch to a Web site:**

Click on the purple "http://" address in the text or click on the **Web Site** icon.

## **To see an outline of the current article:**

Move your cursor to the top left corner of the Article Viewer to open the viewer menu. Then select the **Outline** option. An outline of the article appears in the Path Viewer. Article outlines list the sections of the article, as well as information icons and other types of contents. To restrict the outline list to a particular type of content, use the drop-down box labeled "Display outline of" and click on the type of content you want.

## **To change the size of the text in the article, find a specific word, and use other features of the Article Viewer:**

Move your cursor over the viewer icon in the upper left corner of the Article Viewer to open the viewer menu, then select one of the following options:

- Select **Go to Full Screen/Go to Small Screen** to enlarge the viewer to full-screen size or return to the smaller tableau view.
- Highlight the text you want and select **Copy Text**, **Copy to Find** or **Copy to Word Processor** to copy the selected text to the Windows clipboard, the Find path, or a word processor file, respectively. When copying text to the Find path, highlight only the most important words you want to research. Long search requests take longer to perform and may offer less accurate results.
- Select **Print Article** to print the contents of the article.
- Select **Outline** to see a list of the article's contents displayed in the Path Viewer. The outline feature allows you to go directly to specific information in the article.
- Select **Bookmark** to create a bookmark in the article. The bookmark is created at the location of the flashing cursor in the article text. To return to a bookmark, change its name, or delete it, select **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar.
- Select **Find a Word**, **Find Again**, or **Find Search Highlight** to find the next instance of a specific word. If you opened the article from a Search results list, **Find Search Highlight**

will find the next instance of a keyword from your search request.

- Select **Choose Font Size** to choose a different size for article text.

**To copy the text of an article to the clipboard:**

First highlight the text you'd like to copy, then move your cursor over the icon in the upper left corner of the viewer to open the viewer menu and select the **Copy Text** option. Or click the right mouse button anywhere in the Article Viewer and select the **Copy Text** option.

**To print the text of an article:**

Move your cursor over the icon in the upper left corner of the viewer to open the viewer menu. Then select the **Print Article** option. Or click the right mouse button anywhere in the Article Viewer and select the **Print Article** option.

**To enlarge the Article Viewer to full screen:**

Click on the **Go to Full Screen** icon in the upper right corner of the Article Viewer or move your cursor over the icon in the upper left corner of the Article Viewer to open the viewer menu, then select the **Go to Full Screen** option. The Article Viewer will grow to full-screen size, hiding the Multimedia and Path Viewers.

Although they are hidden, the other information viewers are still "active." When in full-screen mode, press **F6** to move between the three viewers. This function cycles through the information windows of the tableau: the Multimedia Viewer, the Path Viewer, and back to the Article Viewer.

**Shortcuts:**

For quick access to frequently-used functions, the Article Viewer offers three options when you click the *right* mouse button. Move the mouse to the Article Viewer and click the right mouse button to access these options: **Copy Text**, **Copy Text to Word Processor**, and **Print Article**. When the menu appears, click on an option to activate it.

To copy a specific section of text, click and drag the mouse to highlight the text you want to copy before choosing a copy option.

[For more about the Article Viewer, click here.](#)

# The Article Viewer

The Article Viewer is where you'll read articles, use icons to access multimedia, and follow cross-references to related articles.

Icons are small graphics within articles that you click on to open related information in the other viewers. Click on the **Map** icon, for example, to see a map of an area discussed in the article. Some icons lead to pictures, videos, and other multimedia; others display additional text; and yet others open paths, such as the Atlas path. The kinds of icons you'll find in articles are listed in [Information Icons](#).

In many articles, you'll see words in purple, representing a cross-reference to another article in the encyclopedia or hot links to the World Wide Web. Click on the purple text to display a related article in the Article Viewer or to launch your Web browser. To return to the original article, click on the **Backtrack** button at the bottom of the screen.

- If the cursor is over an icon or a hot spot, it changes into a hand. If it is over text, it changes into an I-beam.

If you come across a word you don't know, double-click on it to see its definition. You can even double-click on a word within a definition to learn what it means. Double-clicking on any word—*except* purple cross-reference text and hot links to the World Wide Web—in an article or caption automatically opens the Dictionary/Thesaurus in the Multimedia Viewer.

- Highlight a date in the text of an article and click on the Timeline path to see that period in history and learn about other events that were happening at the same time.

To move among the articles in the encyclopedia, click on **Previous** to display the previous article. Click on **Next** to display the next article.

- In the Article Viewer, click the right mouse button to quickly access the **Copy**, **Copy to Find**, **Copy to Word Processor**, and **Print** options.

For an explanation of the menu options available in the Article Viewer, see [Article Viewer Menu Options](#).



# Article Viewer Menu Options

To see the menu options available for the article displayed in the viewer, click on the viewer icon in the upper left corner of the viewer's title bar. The following menu options are available.

## Copy Text

Choose **Copy Text** to copy text you've highlighted to the Windows clipboard.

## Copy Text to Find

To perform a search on a phrase in an article, highlight it and choose **Copy Text to Find**. The Search portion of the Find path opens in the Path Viewer. Click on the Search button to start the search.

## Copy Text to Word Processor

To copy text to the word processor, highlight the text you want to copy and choose **Copy Text to Word Processor**. The word processor you have selected in Preferences opens and the text is pasted into it. See [Preferences](#) for details on selecting a word processor.

## Print Article

Choose **Print Article** to print the text of the displayed article.

## Outline

Choose **Outline** to see a list of the article contents, including text, multimedia, and cross-references. When you choose **Outline**, the outline appears in the Path Viewer. Use the drop-down menu above the list to choose what to include in the list. Double-click on items preceded by icons to see multimedia items. Listings without icons are subsections of the article. Double-click on a subsection title to go to that section of the article.

## Bookmark

Choose **Bookmark** to create a bookmark at the current section of the article so you can return to it easily. To create a bookmark at a specific point in an article, scroll the article until the place you want to mark is at the top of the window, then choose **Bookmark**. To see the list of bookmarks you've created and to return to a bookmarked item, choose **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar. See [The Menu Bar](#) for more information.

## Find a Word/Find Again/Find Search Highlight

Choose **Find a Word** or **Find Again** to find a specific word. If you selected the article from a search in the Find path, **Find Search Highlight** finds the next instance of a keyword from your search request. Keywords from a search are highlighted in green in the article.

## Choose Font Size

To change the size of the text in articles, choose **Choose Font Size**.

# The Command Buttons

The buttons along the bottom of the screen are the Command Buttons.

## Explain

Click on **Explain**, then click on an item for a quick explanation about that item.

## Views

Click on **Views** to choose an alternate tableau configuration. You can configure the tableau in three ways. The view you see when you first open the program is the "default" configuration: a small Multimedia Viewer in the top left, a small Path Viewer below it, and a large Article Viewer on the right. The Views menu gives you the following, additional options:

- The middle configuration displays a large Path Viewer on the left of the screen, with small Multimedia and Article Viewers on the right.
- The bottom configuration displays two large viewers only, the Path Viewer on the left and the Article or Multimedia Viewer on the right.

## Backtrack

Click on **Backtrack** to return to the previously displayed item.

## Exit

Click on **Exit** to close the encyclopedia.

# The Menu Bar

*Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia's* Menu Bar offers useful tools such as on-disc help, the Dictionary/Thesaurus, and access to a word processor whenever you need them. In addition, the Menu Bar gives you access to some of the program's finest features. Join Patrick Stewart on a guided tour of the encyclopedia, learn about recent historic events, go on a journey through some of the encyclopedia's most stunning pictures, or play the exciting Star Quest game. The Menu Bar is also the place to go to change program settings and find out about the people who created *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*.

To display the Menu Bar, click on the **Menu** button in the Path Bar. Move your cursor over the open Menu Bar to see a description of each menu option. Click on an option to choose it.

## Recent Events

Click on **Recent Events** to see a short, informative slide show about historic events that have taken place within the last year. Choose **Go to Related Item** from the viewer menu to see a text version of this presentation with additional information.

## Star Quest Game

*Windows 95 users only:* Click on **Star Quest Game** to play an exciting astronomy game. You are challenged to locate and photograph an astronomical object in the night sky by using a high-tech telescope. Photographs from successful quests are kept in your own personal album. [Click here for details on Star Quest.](#)

## Exploring Questions

Click on **Exploring Questions** to see fascinating questions that are answered in encyclopedia articles. If you like, you can choose to have Exploring Questions appear on your screen each time you start the program.

## On This Date

Click on **On This Date** to learn about notable birthdays or events that occurred on a specific date in history. Use the up and down arrows to change the month and day, or click the cursor in the date box and type in any date you chose. If you like, you can choose to have On This Date appear on your screen each time you start the program.

## Picture Tour

Click on **Picture Tour** to browse through all of the pictures in the encyclopedia or through pictures related to a specific category, such as the arts, technology, living things, or geography.

## Research History

Click on **Research History** to see a list of the items you've opened in your recent exploration of the encyclopedia. Double-click on an item in the list to see it again.

## Make Shortcut

*Windows 95 users only:* Click on **Make Shortcut** to create a shortcut icon for the current screen.

Whenever you want to return directly to that screen, click on the corresponding shortcut icon on the Windows desktop.

### Bookmark List

Click on **Bookmark List** to see a list of the bookmarks you've created. To return to a bookmarked item, double-click on an item in the list. From the viewer menu, you can save the current bookmark list, start a new list, or open an existing list. To delete a bookmark, click on it and choose **Remove Item from List** from the viewer menu. To change a bookmark title, first click on it in the list. Then click on its name in the text box, type the new name in the text box, and press **Enter**.

### Dictionary/Thesaurus

Click on **Dictionary/Thesaurus** to look up words using the *Webster's New World Dictionary*, Third College Edition and the New Revised Edition of *Webster's New World Thesaurus*. Or double-click on a word in an article or caption to access this feature. Use the buttons at the top of the viewer to switch between the dictionary and thesaurus. In the full-screen viewer, click on the alphabetical Position Bar to move directly to another section in the word list.

### Word Processor

Click on **Word Processor** to open a word processor file where you can paste text and pictures, and type your own thoughts and notes as you use the encyclopedia. Under Windows 3.1, the word processor feature opens the Microsoft *Write* application. Under Windows 95, the word processor opens *WordPad*. To choose a different application, click on **Preferences** on the Menu Bar and change the Word Processor setting.

### Guided Tour

Click on **Guided Tour** to watch and hear Patrick Stewart describe the main features of *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*. Click on **Loop** to set the guided tour to play continuously. Click on **Exit** or press **Esc** to exit the tour.

### Preferences

Click on **Preferences** to change the program settings, such as the text size, MIDI device driver, online service, and the word processor. In the Preferences window, you can also set the program to skip the opening music while the program is loading, save your place when you close the encyclopedia, hide the **Online** path button, and other preferences.

### Tips & Hints

Click on **Tips & Hints** to get ideas on how to maximize your use of the *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*. The hints and tips are organized into different categories for different groups of users—Getting Started, Advanced Hints, Secrets for Experts, and Just for Fun. If you like, you can choose to have Tips & Hints appear on your screen each time you start the program.

### Help

Click on **Help** any time you want quick, simple instructions on how to use *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, and how to get technical support. See your Windows user's guide for details on the Windows help feature.

## About CIE

Click on **About CIE** to learn about the people who created *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* and provided content and software tools. Copyright and trademark information also appears here. To see the program's version number and a list of the program's system requirements compared with your system, hold down **Ctrl** when you click on **About CIE** from the Menu Bar.

# Quick Help for Find

The Find path offers two options for finding information in the encyclopedia: the Table of Contents lists the encyclopedia contents in alphabetical order, while the Search portion lets you enter a word, phrase, or question to help you find a specific item.

## **To find an article or multimedia item:**

Click on the **Table of Contents** tab to see an alphabetical list of the encyclopedia's contents. Click on the down arrow at the end of the box labeled "Look In" to select the kind of information you want to find. Then type a title in the text box labeled "Starts with." The list jumps to the entry that is alphabetically closest to what you have typed.

## **To retrieve an item from a list:**

Double-click on the name of the item you want to see, or click on the item once and select **Get Item** from the viewer menu.

## **To narrow your list to one or more specific kinds of items:**

To narrow the list to a particular type of media, click on the down arrow at the end of the "Look In" box. You can restrict the list to a specific type of media or browse all the contents of the encyclopedia.

## **To perform a search:**

Click on the **Search** tab. Type a topic or question in the "Search For" box, then click on the **Search** button to start your search. In a few moments, a list of search results is displayed.

## **To retrieve an item from your list of search results:**

Double-click on the name of the item you'd like to view, or click on the item once and select **Get Item** from the viewer menu.

## **To narrow your search to a combination of items, such as sounds and articles:**

Click on the appropriate media icons—for instance, **Articles** and **Sounds**—above the "Search For" box, then click on the **Search** button. See [Advanced Search Options](#) for more details on refining your search.

## **To print your list of search results:**

Move your cursor over the viewer icon in the upper left corner of the Path Viewer and select **Print Search Results** from the viewer menu that appears.

## **To jump back to a previous search:**

Click on the down arrow at the end of the "Search For" box. In the list that appears, click on the name of the search topic you'd like to return to.

[Click here to learn more about the Find path.](#)

# Find

The Find path allows you to browse the entire contents of the encyclopedia alphabetically by clicking on the **Table of Contents** tab, and search for specific concepts, words, or phrases by clicking on the **Search** tab.

## Table of Contents

Click on the **Table of Contents** tab to see an alphabetical list of the titles of the encyclopedia's contents, such as articles, pictures, movies, sounds, and other information. Use the drop-down menu to choose the type of information you want to display in the list—from everything in the encyclopedia to subsets of it, such as all articles and facts, or just tables. Enter a title in the text box to scroll the list of titles to find a specific item, or use the scroll bar to browse through the titles. If no article title begins with the word you typed, the next word in alphabetical order will be highlighted.

If the title is too long to fit in the viewer, click on it to extend the text beyond the viewer. To open an article, see a picture or movie, hear a sound, or display other types of information, double-click on its title.

- If you are unsure how a subject is listed, type the first few letters in the text box. The list moves to show the items that begin with those letters.
- The topic you want to research might not be the main subject of an article in the encyclopedia, or might be different than the title of the information you want to find. If there is no information with the title you want, click on the **Search** tab or use the InfoLinks path to find articles that discuss the topic you want to research.
  - Icons in the left margin of title list indicate the media type. For a complete list of icons, see [Information Icons](#).

## Search

Click on the **Search** tab when you have a question but are unsure where to find the answer. Click on the **Look In** button to choose the types of information you want to search—from everything in the encyclopedia to subsets of it, such as all articles and facts, or just tables. Or, click on the icons to select the media types. Then type a word or phrase to describe a topic or question in the text box and click on the **Search** button. The program searches the encyclopedia for the key words in your request and creates a list of related items. The titles toward the top of the list are most likely to contain the information you want. Double-click on an item to open it.

When you open an article, it opens to the section where your search topic first appears in the text. The words from your search request are highlighted in green throughout the article. To find the next highlighted word, choose **Find Search Highlight** from the Article Viewer menu.

When you want to return to a previous search, use the Search drop-down menu to see a list of your last several search requests. Click on a search request to enter it in the text box, then click

on the **Search** button to begin the search process.

- If the search results list does not contain the articles or multimedia you want, try a new search using synonyms or other similar words to describe your topic.

For more about search, see [Advanced Search Options](#).



# Advanced Search Option

If your search topic is complex—for instance, if it includes two or three different broad subjects while excluding certain specific details—you can find the information you want using the encyclopedia's Advanced Search option. The Advanced Search option allows you to define your search topic in very precise terms, resulting in articles and media items that closely match your search criteria.

Advanced Search queries are made up of individual "elements"—meaningful words that describe your topic—linked together by operators such as "and" and "or." Your first task in building an advanced search is to define your search elements. Try describing your topic in one concise sentence.

For instance, let's say you were researching banking systems. You might describe your search this way: "I want to learn about *banks* that have to do with *money or finance*, *not* the kind of bank that you find by a *river*." Your search elements should be the most meaningful words in your description. In this example these would be "banks," "money," "finance," and "river."

Your next step is to figure out which operators you need. Returning to your one-sentence description, you discover the operators "or" and "not." The word "with" is a good indicator of the operator "and." Putting your elements together with their operators, you can now describe your topic as: "banks and money or finance not river." Now that you have defined your elements and operators, you can start building your advanced search query.

## To build an advanced search:

1. Click on the **Build Advanced Search** button in the Search part of the Find viewer.
2. In the "Search For" box, type your first search element. [Click here for more about search text.](#)
3. Click on the down arrow in the "Type of Search" box and select one of the options. [Click here for more about "Type of Search" options.](#)
4. Click on the **Add to End** button. The first element in your Advanced Search now appears in the Advanced Query window.
5. Now click on the down arrow in the Operator box and select the operator that links your first element to your second. [Click here for more about operators.](#)
6. Enter your second element in the "Search For" box and choose a type of search for it.
7. Click on the **Add to End** button. The second element in your search is now added to the Advanced Query box.
8. Repeat steps 5 through 7 until you have entered all your search elements. The text in the Resulting Search Query in CPL box are the actual instructions to be sent to the encyclopedia's search function.
9. Click and drag the **Hits** indicator to specify how many items you want the encyclopedia to find.
10. Click the check boxes in the lower left of the window to select the type of media you want

to include in the search.

11. Click on the **Search** button. You are returned to the Search viewer where the results of the search are displayed.

**To insert a new element between two existing elements:**

First define the new element thoroughly. Then click on the element that should come *after* the new element in the Advanced Query box and click on **Insert**.

**To replace an existing element with a new one:**

First define the new element thoroughly. Then click on the element you want to replace in the Advanced Query box and click on **Replace**.

**To delete an element:**

Click on the element you want to delete in the Advanced Query box and click on **Delete**.

**To clear the Advanced Query box and start over:**

Click on the **Clear All** button.

- Refer to the "Search Help" box on screen for instant help while you build your query. Click on an area or drop-down menu in the Advanced Search window to see a short explanation of its function in the "Search Help" box.

# Advanced Search Text

The text you enter in the "Search For" box is usually one or more words. However, in some instances, you may want the encyclopedia to look for words that can be spelled in different ways or words that you cannot otherwise define precisely. In such instances, you can use one of the following "wild card" characters in your search text:

- Use **?** in the place of a single undefined character. For instance, if you enter "m?n" the encyclopedia will find "man" and "men."
- Use **\*** to indicate multiple undefined characters. For instance, if you enter "m\*n" the encyclopedia will find "man," "melon," and "Manhattan."
- Use **\$** to indicate one or no undefined character. For instance, if you enter "colo\$r" the encyclopedia will find "color" and "colour."
- Use **~** to perform a "fuzzy" search. When you insert this character in your search text, the encyclopedia finds words with spellings similar to your search word. For instance, if you enter "cyclo~xene" the encyclopedia will find "cyclohexene" and "cyclooctene." The "fuzziness" takes effect from the point in the word where the ~ is inserted, and continues through the end of the word. For instance, "man~" will find "mannequin" and "manacle," but not "monocle."

Parentheses ( ) can be used anywhere in search text to group search elements together and to force the precedence of certain kinds of operators.

# Type of Search Options

The encyclopedia's search feature automatically includes words that are related to your search text—unless you specifically tell it not to. Each time you enter a new search element, select a "Type of Search" to tell the encyclopedia how you want it to treat your search word.

- In a **Normal** search, the encyclopedia looks for your search word in whatever form it might appear. For instance, if you perform a **Normal** search using the word "bake," the encyclopedia will include related words such as "baking," "baked," "baker," and "bakery" in your search results.
- In an **Exact Match** search, the encyclopedia looks only for the specific word in your search request.

# Search Operators

Operators define the relationship between two elements in your search. Your first element does not need an operator. But each new element you add after it should include an operator.

- Use **AND** when you want to search for items that contain both the first element *and* second element. For example, if you want to find articles on flightless birds, your search query would read: birds AND flightless.
- Use **OR** when you want to find items that contain either the first word *or* the second word. For example, if you want to find articles on either hurricanes or typhoons, your search query would read: hurricanes OR typhoons.
- Use **NOT** when you want to exclude a related topic from your search. For example, if you want to find articles on pollution but have already researched acid rain, your search query would read: pollution NOT acid rain.
- Use **ADJ** when you only want to find items that contain the first and second word *adjacent* to each other. For example, if you want to find articles on the Black Forest, your search query would read: Black ADJ Forest.
- Use **NEAR4**, **NEAR9**, or **NEAR16** when you want to find the first and second words within 4, 9, or 16 words of each other. For example, if you want to find articles on heart disease, your search query might read: heart NEAR16 disease.
- If your search query contains two words with no operator between them, the encyclopedia searches for one word OR the other. The search results list includes items in which either one or both of your search words appear.

If you want the search results to include only articles that contain both search words, use AND, ADJ or one of the NEAR operators, or select the Exact search type.

# Quick Help for the Atlas

The Atlas path lets you explore a map of the earth, then quickly jump to articles about places you find while exploring.

In full-screen view, the Controls Panel is visible on the left side of the screen. Use these controls to find a particular location in the atlas, or to quickly change your view of the globe to see different parts of the earth.

## **To view a different location on the globe:**

Click on any location on the globe. The Atlas redraws with that location at the center of the screen.

## **To view an area of the earth more closely or from farther away:**

Click on the **Zoom In** or **Zoom Out** buttons. Continue to click on each button until you have reached your desired view.

## **To find a location in the atlas:**

Go to the full-screen view of the Atlas, then click in the entry box labeled "Starts with:" and type in the first letters of the location you are looking for. The list of locations jumps to the entry closest to what you have typed. Now double-click the location name in the list to view it on the globe.

## **To hide or display the place names on the map:**

Open the viewer menu, move your cursor to the **Display** option and select **Place Names**.

## **To hide or display the lines of latitude and longitude on the map:**

Open the viewer menu, move your cursor to the **Display** option and select **Latitude/Longitude Lines**.

## **To hide or display the Place Locator Controls Panel:**

Open the viewer menu, move your cursor to the **Display** option, and select **Place Locator Controls**.

[Click here for more details about the Atlas.](#)

# Atlas

The Atlas path lets you explore the earth's surface using an interactive atlas. Use the atlas to find places in the world by location and name.

When you first choose the **Atlas** path button, a globe appears. Click on a location on the map to center that location in the viewer. Click on a place name to center it in the viewer and display an article related to that location in the Article Viewer. To see the map in greater detail, click on the **Zoom In** button, or choose **Zoom In** from the viewer menu. Click on the **Zoom Out** button or choose **Zoom Out** from the viewer menu for a broader look at the map. You can also click and drag the pointer on the map to enclose an area inside an outline rectangle, then release the mouse button to center and zoom in on the area you selected. To display (or remove) place names and latitude and longitude lines on the map, choose **Display** from the viewer menu.

When you want to find a specific place on a map by name, pinpoint a location on a world map, or use other map features, click on the **Go to Full Screen** icon in the viewer's title bar, or choose **Go to Full Screen** from the viewer menu.

To find a location on the map in the full-screen viewer, enter a name in the text box to scroll the list of place names, or use the scroll bar to browse through the place names. Double-click on a place name in the list to center and display that location on the map. To learn more about a place, click on its name on the map to see the related article, or select it in the list and click on **Copy Place Name to Find** to open the Find path where you can search for other related information.

The full-screen viewer also displays a small world map that pinpoints the currently displayed map location and gives its latitude and longitude coordinates. If you know the area you want to investigate, click on that area on the world map to instantly display that map. For example, if the current map displays Australia and you want to see the United States, just click in the vicinity of the U.S. on the world map. The map of North America appears and the crosshairs on the world map pinpoint the place you clicked. The longitude and latitude coordinates refer to the area you clicked.

- Each city in the atlas is identified by its place name, but its true geographic location is indicated by a small dot. Capitals of countries are indicated by larger dots. In the United States, capitals of states are indicated by stars.
- Not all place names are shown at every zoom level. Which names appear depends on how they can best be shown. In general, names of major regions such as continents, large countries, and vast bodies of water are shown at the more distant zoom levels. Names of smaller areas such as small countries and cities are shown at closer zoom levels.
- When you are at a close zoom level and your viewing location is a large body of water or a sparsely populated landmass, you may not see place names on your map. Choose **Zoom Out** from the viewer menu until your view is far enough away from the region so that the place names appear.

# Quick Help for the Timeline

The Timeline path lets you explore information about historical events in both United States and world history by scrolling along a timeline of events.

There are two basic ways to explore the Timeline: You can look at a larger span of years in *outline view*, or get a closer view of historical events with the *detailed view*.

## **To view a different part of the timeline:**

In the full-screen view, click anywhere on the Era Bar, which is the bar with a year at either end located at the top of the screen. A short purple marker shows where your view is relative to the entire timeline.

## **To switch between the world and United States timelines:**

Open the viewer menu and select **Display U.S. Timeline** or **Display World Timeline**.

## **To switch between outline and detailed views of the current timeline:**

Open the viewer menu and select **View Outline of Events** or **View Detailed Events**, or click on any empty space when the cursor is a crosshair.

## **To go directly to a specific year:**

Choose **Go to Year** from the viewer menu. In the window that appears, type in a specific year to see events within that period of time, then click on **Go to Year**. If you are viewing the world timeline, click on **AD** or **BC**, and **Millions of Years** or **Billions of Years** to further specify the period of time you would like to search.

## **To find a specific event:**

Choose **Find Event** from the viewer menu. In the list that appears, double-click on the event you would like to find, or click once on the item to select it, then click on **Go to Event**.

[Click here for more details about the Timeline.](#)



# Timeline

The Timeline path lets you explore information about important people and events in U.S. and world history. The U.S. history timeline extends from 1485 to the 1990s, and the world history timeline extends from the Big Bang to the present. Choose **Display U.S. Timeline** or **Display World Timeline** from the viewer menu to switch between the two timelines. Use the timelines to discover when a particular event occurred, the order in which a series of events happened, and which events were happening at the same time.

You can display a timeline in either a detailed view or an outline view. The detailed view offers detailed accounts of specific events linked directly to encyclopedia articles. The outline view gives a general perspective on history from which you learn about major trends and eras. Choose **View Detailed Events** or **View Outline of Events** from the viewer menu to display the view you want. Clicking on any open area in a timeline also changes between the two views.

Each view has a thin bar along the top of the window that shows the complete span of time that can be viewed on the timeline below. The abbreviation *BYA* at the left end of the bar stands for *billion years ago*. Similarly, *MYA* stands for *million years ago*. The purple band on the bar represents the period of time currently shown on the timeline. Move the pointer over the bar to see specific years. Click anywhere on the bar to change the time period on the timeline. Use the scroll arrows at either end of the timeline below to move forward or backward in smaller steps.

Choose **Find Event** from the viewer menu to see an alphabetical list of the events in the timelines. Use the scroll bar to browse through the list and double-click on an event to see it in on the timeline. If you choose **Find Event** from the outline view, the timeline changes to the detailed view with the selected event shown.

Choose **Go to Year** from the viewer menu to view a specific year on the timeline. Enter a year in the text box and click on **AD** or **BC**, or enter a number and click on **Million Years Ago** or **Billion Years Ago** to indicate how far in the past you want the timeline to display. Then click on the **Go to Year** button to view the selected year or time period on the timeline.

## Detailed View

The detailed view displays event boxes, pictures, and videos that mark specific events you can explore. Use the scroll bar to move up and down to see all the events for the time period shown on the timeline. Move the pointer over an event to see the date it happened and a brief description of it. Click on an event box or picture to read a description about it in the Multimedia Viewer. Click on any purple text at the end of the description to open a related article in the Article Viewer. Click on a video, represented by a picture on a television screen, to see a video clip about a historic event or a famous person.

In the full-screen viewer, the detailed view of the U.S. history timeline includes a bar at the bottom of the window that shows the name of the president in office at that time. Beginning with George Washington in 1789, the bar shows each president in succession to the current

president. Click on the bar to see a list of the major events that occurred during that president's term in office. Sound clips of important speeches or statements are also available for some presidents.

## Outline View

The outline view of a timeline shows colored banners that represent major trends and eras in history. Use the scroll bar to move up and down to see all the eras for the time period shown on the timeline. Move the pointer over an era to see its beginning and ending year. Click on an era to read a description about it in the Multimedia Viewer.

# Quick Help for InfoLinks

The InfoLinks path lets you explore different articles in the encyclopedia that are related to a particular subject.

The article in the center of the screen is the *focus article*. InfoLinks uses the title of this article to find and display the four related articles that surround the focus article.

## **To make an article on the screen a focus article:**

Click on the article name.

## **To focus on a new subject:**

Choose **Search for Focus Article** from the viewer menu. In the window that appears, type the name of the subject you'd like to search for. Click on **Search**, then select an article from the list that appears.

## **To view an InfoLinks article in the Article Viewer:**

Choose the **Expand Article** option from the viewer menu. Each grey button in the grid represents one of the articles in the InfoLinks screen. Click on the button that corresponds to the article you'd like to see, or click on **Cancel** to return to the InfoLinks window.

## **To return to a previous InfoLinks search:**

Choose the **Display InfoLinks History** option from the viewer menu. In the window that appears, double-click on the name of the focus article you'd like to return to, or click once on the item to select it, then click on the **Get Item** button.

[Click here for more details about InfoLinks.](#)

# InfoLinks

InfoLinks offers a unique way to browse through the encyclopedia and explore the information it contains. Using InfoLinks is like asking the program to brainstorm on a topic or question.

When you first choose the **InfoLinks** path button, the focus article displayed in the center of the viewer is the current article in the Article Viewer. To change the focus article, choose **Search for Focus Article** from the viewer menu and enter a request. InfoLinks presents a list of one or more related articles. To choose a focus article, double-click on a title in the list or highlight a topic and click on **Select**. To refine your search further, highlight a topic and click on **Search**. Once you choose a focus article, InfoLinks displays a selection of article windows and titles that relate to your topic.

The articles in the full-screen InfoLinks are arranged in functional mini-viewers. You can scroll through the text of the five articles and use the multimedia icons in them. Clicking on an article title refocuses InfoLinks on that topic and creates a new array of related articles.

Choose **Expand an Article** from the full-screen viewer menu to see a grid that represents the articles and titles in the InfoLinks window. Choose the block that corresponds to the article you want to expand. On the Expand Article grid, the large blocks represent the article windows, while the smaller blocks correspond to the title tiles that surround each miniature article.

- Choose **Display InfoLinks History** from the viewer menu to see a list of your recent searches. Double-click on a topic to return to the InfoLinks arrangement with that focus.

# Quick Help for Topic Tree

The Topic Tree path organizes most of the contents of the encyclopedia into basic categories, which then branch into topics and subtopics. This lets you start with a general topic, and then explore it in increasing detail.

## **To start exploring the Topic Tree:**

Double-click on a topic, such as The Arts or Economics. (You can also click on the item once to select it, then select the **Get Item** option on the viewer menu.) In each list of subtopics that appears, continue to select subtopics in the same way until you find articles that interest you.

## **To view articles you find in the Topic Tree:**

Double-click on the article you'd like to view, or click once on the article to select it, then select the **View Highlighted Item** option on the viewer menu. Article titles are in CAPITAL letters, and have a small Article icon in front of the title.

## **To jump back to any level in the Topic Tree:**

*In the tableau view:* Under the list of topics in the History window, double-click on the name of the topic you'd like to jump to. If you can't see the name of the topic, click on the arrows on either side of the History box to scroll the row of topics to the left or right.

*In the full screen view:* Click in the window that contains the topic you'd like to see.

[Click here for more details on Topic Tree.](#)

# Topic Tree

Topic Tree represents the world of information as a set of topics and branching subtopics. Browse through the topic lists to discover areas of interest. Start with a broad subject and narrow your view to a specific aspect by exploring related subtopics.

Each topic on the first list of the tree has a right-pointing arrow beside it, indicating that each topic has related subtopics and articles. Double-click on an arrow to open the topic and see a list of subtopics and articles. Subtopics are indicated by right-pointing arrows, which can also be opened to show more subtopics or articles. Article titles are marked with article icons. Article titles are also displayed in capital letters to distinguish them from subtopics. To open an article, double-click on it.

- When a subtopic contains only a list of articles, you have exhausted the list of subtopics in a subject area.

# Explore

The six environments in the Explore feature provide a captivating way to integrate learning with fun, as you find connections between events, places, people, and ideas. Each environment is an imaginative setting that represents a different theme.

Click on the **Explore** path button to see the selection of environments. Choose one by double-clicking on it or click on it once to highlight it, then click on **OK**. Once you've arrived in your new surroundings, move the pointer around to discover "hot spots." When the pointer is over a hot spot, a text label appears or the cursor changes shape. Click on a hot spot to see what it reveals—you might be taken to an article, hear a sound, see a picture, or watch a video or animation. Click anywhere outside the item viewer to close it. Click again on the same hot spot to discover something new, or move on to another hot spot.

To change environments, click on **Explore** again and select a new environment. To return to the encyclopedia's tableau screen, click on the **Exit to Encyclopedia** button in the bottom right corner of the screen.

- To learn more about an item displayed in an environment, click on **Exit to Encyclopedia** while the item is on-screen. The tableau screen appears with the item in the appropriate viewer. In the tableau, you can access related items, resize, print, or copy the item, or place a bookmark to retrieve it later.

[Click here to see descriptions of each Explore environment.](#)

# Explore Environments

The text below describes each environment in *Compton's* Explore feature—but the best way to learn about them is to...*explore them!* To explore an environment, simply click on any object.

## Grandma's Attic

Climb the ladder to Grandma's Attic. It's a cozy spot with an array of books, jewelry, china, and everything from soup to nuts. There's a story behind each item in Grandma's collection. Click on an item and hear a story. Click on it again and hear a different tale. As Grandma says, there are different stories for different people. Learn about cultures and customs, teddy bears and sports figures. It's a wonderful collection, a rich and varied storehouse of treasures—just like Grandma's attic.

## Madcap Music Store

It's wild, sometimes wacky, and always fun! Come in and browse through almost every type of music and sound under the sun. Listen to bird songs, arias, and hymns, plus classical and contemporary music. Hear woodwinds, pluck a guitar, play percussion, bow a violin—but don't stop there. Drop a quarter in the jukebox or learn to read music. Explore the world map to find music from different lands and cultures. Click on objects around the store to find mystery sounds. Can you identify them all?

## Compton's Newsroom

Explore your world through the Compton's Newsroom. It's a wide world out there, and there's always something new to discover. Click on an object for news, then click again for an update. See a slide show of recent events. Learn about media techniques and technology. News and information come to you in many different forms. Sports, the weather map, traffic watch, film archives, the environment—you'll find them all in the Compton's Newsroom.

## Kaleidescape (The Patterns Playroom)

It's Kaleidescape—a game of pattern, shape, and color. Let yourself wander and wonder. Learn how a prism divides light into the colors of the rainbow, and examine the intricate patterns of mosaic tiles. Compare the shapes of buildings and sea corals, star trails and crystals. Gaze at the artistry of stained glass windows, and discover incredible shapes only seen with a microscope. Ever wonder how many different things in nature have spots?

## Compton's Skyship

As captain of this ship, your mission is to travel through our solar system, collecting facts and exploring space phenomena. There's a lot to see and do. Explore movies, charts, and photographs on your journey through space. Click on an object aboard ship and prepare to



learn. Check your screens often, since they change as you go. Enjoy your journey. There's a whole universe to explore.

## Wild and Free

Are you ready for an adventure? Click on an object, and view ocean life from 300 feet below the surface, or see a humpback whale feeding. Click again for another adventure. See snow-covered slopes, surf in huge waves, soar on a hang-glider, see a tidal wave, hear wild animals, watch dolphins play, and even go to the moon. The variety of adventures seems endless. As you explore, think about our relation to nature. How do we use the forces of nature? What can we do to preserve our surroundings?

# Planetarium

The Planetarium path (*available to Windows 95 users only*) gives you an unobstructed view of the night sky in your area, or any area in the world, and identifies stars, constellations, planets, galaxies, nebulae, and other astronomical objects. The Planetarium can also show the movement of astronomical objects across the night sky for any time interval you set.

When you first choose the **Planetarium** path button, you are asked to enter the name of your city so that the program can display the night sky in your area. If the name you enter does not appear highlighted in the list box, enter the name of the nearest large city. When you find your city, click on its name in the list to see its time zone and latitude and longitude coordinates. Then click on **OK**. Later, if you want to see the night sky from another location, such as from a city in another hemisphere, choose **Set Location** from the viewer menu.

The Planetarium shows the night sky in your area at the current time (if you are using the program at night) or at dusk (if you are using the program during daylight hours). The date and time appear at the top of the map. To change the day and time, choose **Set Time** from the viewer menu. You can enter any date and time you want and modify the time zone. To reset the clock to the current time, click on the **Now** button.

To locate an object on the map, use the drop-down menu and choose the kind of object you want to find—constellation, planet, star, comet, or Messier object (star cluster, nebula, or galaxy). Or choose **Locate** from the viewer menu, where the sun and moon are also listed. Then enter its name in the text box to scroll the list of place names, or use the scroll bar to browse through the names. Double-click on a name in the list to center and display that object on the map. Click on any object on the map to see important facts about it. Fact windows for all planets and selected stars contain an Article button. Click on the Article button to see the related encyclopedia article. To see an article about a constellation, click on its name on the map.

## Display Options

To see the map in greater detail, click on the **Zoom In** button, or choose **Zoom In** from the viewer menu. Click on the **Zoom Out** button or choose **Zoom Out** from the viewer menu for a broader look at the map. You can also click and drag the pointer on the map to enclose an area inside an outline rectangle, then release the mouse button to center and zoom in on the area you selected.

The small circular map in the upper left of the full-screen Planetarium window shows the portion of the night sky currently displayed. Click anywhere in the small map to quickly move your view to another area of the sky.

To display (or remove) objects on the map, choose **Display** from the viewer menu. When you choose **Constellations** from the Display menu, you can choose to show **Labels**—the names of the constellations, **Figures**—the stars connected by green lines to show their outlines, or **Boundaries**—the area the constellation includes, shown by red lines.

Using the Display option you can also choose to show stars, Messier objects, and planets; and

ascension and declination lines with or without a grid. When you choose **Stars** from the Display menu option, a star display dialog box appears.

Normally, the Planetarium will not let you see any area of sky below the horizon. Selecting **Objects Below the Horizon** will allow you to see these areas.

To display (or remove) the Object Locator Controls, which include the small circular map and object locator list along the left side of the Planetarium window, choose **Object Locator Controls** on the Display menu.

## Time Lapse

You can see the movement of celestial objects across the night sky by taking "snapshots" of the sky at different intervals of time. These snapshots, or "stills," are then presented in steps, one after the other, as in a slide show.

First choose **Set Up Time Lapse** to indicate how often you want the snapshot taken. You can take a snapshot every year, month, day, hour, minute, or second, or for any time interval you want. You can also set how long to display each new still. For example, to see almost a continual movement of objects in real time, enter 1 in the Second text box and zeroes in the other text boxes in the Time Step group, and 1 in the Seconds Per Step text box. To see how the night sky will look at the same time of day each month, enter 1 in the Month text box in the Time Step group. Then click on the **Start Time Lapse** button to see the movement of objects. As each new still is displayed, the date and time at the top of the map change for each snapshot displayed. Click on the **Stop Animating** button to stop the display of snapshots.

# Right Ascension & Declination Lines

*Right ascension lines*, like lines of longitude on the globe, describe the angular distance (in hours) of an object east and west of its position at the time of the vernal (spring) equinox. (One hour is equal to 15 degrees.) *Declination lines*, like lines of latitude on the globe, describe the angular distance (in degrees) of an object north and south of the celestial equator. Objects north of the equator are positive numbers (up to 90°); objects south of the equator are negative numbers (down to -90°).

To change the display settings for ascension and declination lines, choose **Display** from the viewer menu and select **Ascension/Declination Lines**.

# Objects Below the Horizon

Normally, the planetarium restricts your view to points above the horizon of the selected location. However, by choosing **Objects Below the Horizon** you can view any point in space below the current horizon. This feature is useful for seeing what stars have just set and which ones are about to rise. It is also handy for seeing objects that otherwise would never rise at the selected location.

- Objects Below the Horizon is automatically chosen whenever you search for an object that does not rise at the selected location.

# Magnitude

The magnitude of a star refers to its brightness as seen from earth. A star of magnitude 1 (also known as a star of the "first magnitude") is very bright, while a star of magnitude 5 (of the "fifth magnitude") is relatively dim to the naked eye. Objects dimmer than magnitude 6 or so are invisible to the naked eye. Note that the greater the magnitude value, the dimmer the object appears. For comparison, the sun has magnitude -27, the full moon is -12, the brightest star Sirius is -1.6, and the photogenic galaxy M51 (near the Big Dipper) has magnitude 8.

Mathematically, a change in magnitude by one unit corresponds to a change in brightness by a factor of 2.51. Therefore, an object of magnitude 0 is brighter than an object of magnitude 5 by a factor of 2.51 to the fifth power = 100.

# Star Display

The Star Display dialog box allows you to change the appearance of stars on the screen and in printouts. You can change the size and intensity of stars, based on their magnitude and intensity, by using the **Modify Star Sizes** and **Modify Star Intensities** buttons. (The "intensity" setting refers to the grey-scale colors used to display stars at each magnitude.)

If the Star Display settings have been changed and you want to restore the original settings, click on the **Default Settings** button.

# Locate Object

When you select **Locate Object** from the viewer menu, a dialog box appears. Select the object you want to see and click on **OK**, or choose a category from the drop-down list at the top of the window to select a different type of object list. To close the window without selecting an object, click on **Cancel**.



# Viewing Location

When you first open the Planetarium path, you are asked to set the Viewing Location. You can change this setting anytime by choosing **Set Location** from the viewer menu.

In the Viewing Location dialog box, select a city from the list or type in the name if your city is not in the list. If you enter a city that is not on the list, you must also enter the correct latitude, longitude, and time zone. (Use the Atlas path to find the latitude and longitude information you need.) Make sure that the time zone for the city you selected is accurate. Once you have entered the settings, click on **OK** to see the new Planetarium view.

# Date and Time

The Date and Time option allows you to change the time settings for the Planetarium view. When you change the date and/or time settings, the Planetarium recalculates your view of the sky based on the location that has been selected and displays the view you would see at that time. To change the current time zone setting, click on the **Modify Time Zone** button. The Set Location dialog box opens so you can make sure that your new time zone setting is consistent with the current location setting.

# Time Lapse

The Planetarium's time lapse feature lets you set a time lapse sequence and watch as the Planetarium displays a series of views, depicting the sky as it changes over periods of time. The Time Step boxes in the Time Lapse dialog let you set the time interval between each view. Enter a number in the Hour, Minute, or Second box to see how the sky changes over the course of one night. Enter a number in the Year, Month, or Day box to see how the sky changes over a longer period of time. The number in the Seconds Per Step box indicates how long each view is displayed on screen.

Enter a number in one or more of the Time Step boxes, enter a number in the Seconds Per Step, then click on the **Start Time Lapse** button to start the time lapse sequence.

Choosing a time interval of 23 hours and 56 minutes will allow you to see the daily motion of planets and comets against a background of fixed stars.

# Print Star Chart

When you choose **Print Star Chart** from the Planetarium's viewer menu, the resulting dialog box displays a preview of the printed page. (Star charts are tailored to fit one printed page.) To change the appearance of the printout, click on the **Modify Stars** button. The Modify Stars dialog box is similar to the Star Display dialog box, except that the stars are printed black on a white background, instead of white on black as shown on screen. Use the up and down arrows to change the size and appearance of stars, based on their magnitude and intensity. (The "intensity" setting refers to the grey-scale colors used to display stars at each magnitude.)

When the preview reflects the printout you want, click on **Print** to start printing. To close the Print Star Chart dialog box without printing, click on **Cancel**.

# Object Information

The Object Information dialog box appears whenever you click on any item other than a constellation in the Planetarium window.

The object information includes the object name, type, position (right ascension and declination) and magnitude. For some objects, the dialog box will also display the distance of the object from earth in astronomical units (AU). One AU is equal to the average distance from the earth to the sun.

In addition, the Object Information dialog boxes for all planets and selected stars include an Article button. Click on the **Article** button to open a related encyclopedia article.

# Quick Help for ShowMaker

ShowMaker lets you create multimedia shows by combining and rearranging any information you find in *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*. Besides using materials from the encyclopedia in your presentation, you can create titles, decorate screens, and even record your own voice.

The best way to learn about ShowMaker is to use its built-in tutorial feature, then watch some sample shows. Click on the **Tutorial** and **Sample Show** buttons at the bottom of the ShowMaker screen to do this.

## **To start ShowMaker:**

Click on the **ShowMaker** button in the path bar.

[Click here for more details on ShowMaker.](#)

# ShowMaker

ShowMaker allows you to create multimedia shows and presentations by combining and arranging information you find in *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*—articles, pictures, video clips, animations, slide shows, sounds, atlases, star maps, and tables. You can also create titles and other screens of text which you can decorate with borders and colored backgrounds. For the finishing touch, you can even record your voice to narrate the show.

To access ShowMaker, click on the **ShowMaker** path button.

Creating a show is easy. You gather or create the components of your show, and place them into a script. Your show can contain any combination of these four kinds of elements:

- Items from the encyclopedia such as articles, pictures, movies, sounds, maps, and tables. You can "collect" items from the encyclopedia by creating bookmarks, or select them directly from the ShowMaker screen.
  - Title screens, which are screens of text that you create yourself.
  - Extra sounds, which you can record or add from another source.
  - Extra pictures, such as art you create in a paint program, photos you have scanned, or pictures from other sources.
- For an overview of ShowMaker, see the on-disc tutorial and preview some of the sample shows included with the program. Choose **View ShowMaker Tutorial** or **Open Sample Shows** from the ShowMaker viewer menu.

To learn more about how to use ShowMaker, click on one of the topics below:

[The Show Script Viewer](#)

[The Building Blocks Viewer and Preview Viewer](#)

[The TitleMaker](#)

[Sounds and Narration](#)

[Pictures from Other Sources](#)

[Timing](#)

[Saving Your Script](#)

[Viewing a Show](#)

[Copying Shows to a Floppy Disk](#)

[Deleting Show Scripts and Custom Sounds](#)

[Tips for Creating Shows](#)

[ShowMaker Shortcuts](#)

# The Show Script Viewer

The Show Script is a list of the items in your presentation, in the order that they will appear on screen. You determine how long each item in the show remains on the screen. You can also determine whether the whole show plays automatically, or whether your audience controls when to go to the next screen. You'll probably change your mind a few times as you create a show, so you can add, move, or remove items from your script at any point in the process.

To start a new script, choose **Start New Script** from the ShowMaker viewer menu. To add an item to your script, follow the instructions in [Building Blocks Viewer and Preview Viewer](#).

New items are added above the highlight in the Show Script list. If you want to place a new item between two items that are already in the script, make sure the second item is highlighted. Then follow the instructions for adding items.

To remove an item from the script, highlight the item in the Show Script list, then click on the **Remove** button. To change the order of items, highlight an item in the Show Script list, then click on the **Up** or **Down** arrow buttons below the Show Script list.



# The Building Blocks Viewer and Preview Viewer

You can use any encyclopedia item, such as pictures, videos, music and sounds, articles, facts, and atlas and planetarium screens, in your show. There are two ways to collect encyclopedia contents for your presentation.

You can access the encyclopedia contents from within ShowMaker by clicking on the **Select Media** button in the Building Blocks viewer. Click on the type of media you want to see it listed in that viewer. Then double-click on an item in the list to display it in the Preview viewer. To add an item to your script, highlight it and click on the **Add to Script** button.

You can also access the encyclopedia contents by using your bookmark list. As you research a topic in the encyclopedia, create a bookmark for each text article, picture, video, music and sound, map, and other media you want to include in your script. Then access your bookmark list in ShowMaker by clicking on the **Select Media** button in the Building Blocks viewer and choosing the bookmark list you want to use. The bookmarks in that list appear in the Building Blocks viewer. Double-click on an item in the list to display it in the Preview viewer. To add an item to your script, highlight it and click on the **Add to Script** button. Using bookmarks in the encyclopedia is a quicker, more efficient way to gather materials for your show.

- Click the right mouse button on an item listed in the Building Blocks viewer for quick access to the **Preview** and **Add to Script** options.

# The TitleMaker

A title is a screen of text that you create yourself. It can be the name of your show, important facts, or any other text that you want to display during your presentation.

To create a new title screen, click on the **TitleMaker** button at the bottom of the Show Script viewer. Enter the text of the screen in the text box.

You can enhance the appearance of the title screen using the following options in the TitleMaker window. The Preview box reflects your choices and shows how the text will look.

**Fonts**—Choose a font, style, and size for your text, then click on **OK**.

**Text Alignment**—You can align text both horizontally and vertically on the screen. Click on **Left**, **Center**, or **Right** to align text horizontally; click on **Top**, **Center**, or **Bottom** to align text vertically.

**Border**—Use the drop-down Border Styles menu to see a list of border styles. Click on one of the borders to choose it.

**Colors**—Choose a color for the background, border, and the text by clicking on the appropriate option and then clicking on a color from the color palette. Be sure to select contrasting colors for text and background so your audience can read your titles.

Click on **OK** when you are satisfied with the appearance of your title screen. It appears in the Show Script list as the next item.

A title screen can be changed at any time. Select the title screen in the Show Script list, then click on the **Edit** button in the Show Script viewer.

# Sounds and Narration

In addition to sounds and music from the encyclopedia, your show can include sounds from other sources (any file in *.wav* format) and recordings you create yourself. To add sounds from the encyclopedia to your script, follow the instructions for using the [Building Blocks viewer](#).

You can play encyclopedia sounds and your own recordings over any items in your script that do not already contain sound—for example, pictures, tables, and title screens. No sound or narration can be added to videos, slide shows, or animation sequences.

To play your sound while displaying a picture or title screen, see the instructions under [Timing](#).

To create your own recordings in ShowMaker, you'll need a microphone connected to the sound card in your computer. The mixer software that controls the sound levels will also have to be adjusted correctly for recording. For more information on recording sounds, see [Working with Sounds and MIDI Music](#) in the [Troubleshooting](#) section of this guide.

## Recording and Saving Your Own Sounds and Narration

Click on the **Sound Recorder** button in the Show Script viewer to make your own recording.

When the sound recorder appears, click on the **Record** button and start recording. When you finish recording, click on the **Stop** button. If your recording equipment is working properly, you should see a red sound wave move as you speak into the microphone.

To hear what you have recorded, click on **Play**. If you are not satisfied with your recording, click on **Record** and record another "take." Remember to click on **Stop** when you finish recording.

When you are satisfied with your recording, click on the **Save As** button and give your narration a title, then click on **OK**. Click on **OK** to return to the ShowMaker script. Your new sound appears in the Show Script list.

Your narration appears in the script with the name you typed when you saved the file. To change the name in the script, highlight the narration and click the right mouse button. Choose **Name** from the pop-up menu and then enter a new name that will help you remember what this narration or sound is, and click on **OK**. The new name appears in the Show Script list. Changing the name in the script does not change the file name on your system.

To change a narration file in your Show Script list, highlight the sound and click on the **Edit** button. Click on the **Record** button to record over the previous recording.

## Adding Sounds from Other Sources

If you have sounds or recordings on your hard drive or a floppy disk and you want to add them to your show, click on the **Sound Recorder** button. To access sound files, click on the **Browse**

button in the Sound Recorder window and select the drive and directory where your files are stored. (You'll recognize sound files by their *.wav* extension.) Select the file that you want to add and click on **OK**. You can preview the sound in the Sound Recorder window. Click on **OK** to add the sound to your script.

## Removing a Recorded Sound from the Script

Click on the name of the sound you want to remove from the Show Script list, then click on **Remove**. The sound will be removed from your script, but not from your hard drive. For directions on removing sounds from your hard drive, see [Deleting Show Scripts and Custom Sounds](#).

# Pictures from Other Sources

In your ShowMaker show, you can add pictures from other sources besides the encyclopedia, such as pictures you have scanned, or even original artwork which you created in a paint or draw program. You can add any file in *.jpg* or *.bmp* format.

## Adding a Picture

Click on the **Picture** button in the Show Script viewer. Choose the directory where your graphic file is stored, and click on the file name to preview it. Click on **OK** to add it to your Show Script list. Use the right mouse button to give the picture a name that will help you remember it.

# Timing

Click on the Timing button to specify how long each item in your show will appear on the screen. If you do not specify a time after adding an item to the script, the program automatically keeps the item on the screen for six seconds, except for sounds, which are set at *Don't Wait* (see below). Choose a playing time from the following choices:

**Seconds**—Enter the number of seconds you want the item to stay on screen.

**Wait**—Click on this option to give the viewer as much time as he or she wants to look at each item.

If, for example, you've included an encyclopedia article in your show, you'll want to give the viewer as much time as necessary to finish reading. The viewer must click the mouse button to go to the next item.

**Don't Wait**—Click on this option to display the next item immediately. This is necessary if, for example, you want music to play at the same time a title or picture is on the screen.

**Wait for Sound to Finish**—Click on this option to keep a picture or title on the screen until the preceding sound finishes.

## Timing Examples

Let's say you want some guitar music to begin and continue playing while a picture of a flower is being displayed. You would configure the playing time like this:

**Musical Instrument:** Guitar *Don't wait*

**Picture:** Poppy *Wait for Sound to Finish*

In another instance, let's say you want narration over a large colored photo. It may take longer for your system to find the picture than it does to find your narration. Consequently, the narration may begin before the picture appears on screen. With the following time configuration, the picture is displayed and then the narration begins. The picture must be placed in the script again under the narration so it remains on the screen until the narration finishes.

**Picture:** *1 Second*

**Narration:** *Don't Wait*

**Picture:** *Wait for Sound to Finish*

# Saving Your Script

To save your script, choose **Save Current Script** from the ShowMaker viewer menu. If this is the first time you are saving your script, type a name in the dialog box, then click on **OK**.

Remember to save your script often! And to make sure your file is being saved to your hard drive, select the drive in the Save dialog box.

# Viewing a Show

## Previewing a Show in Progress

You can preview the show you are creating at any time. If you want to see the show from the beginning, select the first item in your Show Script list. Then click on the **Play Show** button in the Show Script viewer.

If you want to preview only part of the show (from the middle, for example), select the item in the Show Script list where you want the preview to begin, then click on the **Play Show** button.

Click on the **Close** button to return to the ShowMaker screen.

## Viewing Existing Shows

Choose **Open Saved Script** from the ShowMaker viewer menu to see a list of shows you have saved. Click on the name of the show you want to view, then click on **OK**. The script of the show you chose appears in the Show Script viewer.

Select the first item in your Show Script list and click on the **Play Show** button in the Show Script viewer to see the show.

## Viewing Sample Shows

ShowMaker comes with sample shows to give you some ideas for creating shows of your own. Click on the **Sample Shows** button in the Show Script viewer to see these shows. Choose the name of the show you would like to see, then click on **OK**. The script appears in the Show Script window. Click the **Play Show** button to see the sample show.

- If you like, you can make changes to a sample show, such as adding or rearranging items, then save your new version on your hard drive or a floppy disk.

## Playing Sample Shows on Slower Computers

Sample shows are optimized for different computers. If you're using a slower computer, choose shows with an asterisk (\*) next to the name. Shows without asterisks are optimized to play on faster computers.

If you play a show that is not optimized for your computer, you may find that the pictures and sound are not synchronized, or the presentation may play too fast or too slowly.

Many factors can affect your computer's performance, such as the amount of memory (RAM) available, the number of fonts loaded, the number of applications open, or the speed of the different hardware components of your system. Consult the user's guides that came with your computer system about ways to optimize your system.





# Copying Shows to a Floppy Disk

ShowMaker shows can be copied to a floppy disk so that you can move them to another computer. Consult your Windows user's guide for details on how to copy files.

# Deleting Show Scripts and Custom Sounds

If you want to delete shows, you must delete the files from the directory in which you saved them. Find and delete files with the *.shw* extension.

If you want to delete sounds that you recorded within the ShowMaker, delete files with the *.wav* extension.

Consult your Windows user's manual for specific instructions on deleting files.

# Tips for Creating Shows

The way your computer system's components are set up to work together (its "configuration") can greatly affect the speed at which ShowMaker shows play. Everyone's system configuration is a little different, so as you create a show, make sure to experiment with different combinations of items and playing times in your script list. Try to find the best arrangement for your own computer system—some combinations of sounds and pictures will work, and others won't.

With slower computer systems, ShowMaker shows need to be created a little differently. Slower computers can't process data as rapidly as faster systems, which usually means that pictures take longer to load and display on the screen. Synchronizing sounds and pictures so they play at the same time might also be difficult. This section offers some tips to keep in mind while constructing shows on slower computers.

## Creating Shows on Slower Computers

With slower computers, you may find that if you display a series of pictures at the same time as you play music or a narration, the sound may not play smoothly. Here are some ways to avoid this problem:

- If you are using sounds from the encyclopedia or sounds you have recorded yourself, display only one picture for each sound. Don't display many pictures while playing a sound, or the sound will stop and start as each picture changes. It's always best to set the playing time for the picture in the script list at "1 second," then add the sound, giving it a "Don't wait" playing time. Now add the same picture again, giving it a "Wait for sound to finish" playing time. Your sound and picture should now play more smoothly.
- If you want music to play at the same time a series of pictures is displayed, choose a MIDI file (use encyclopedia items with the icon that shows musical notes) instead of a recorded sound. MIDI files are much smaller than recorded sound files and won't cause the sound to stutter.

# ShowMaker Shortcuts

The ShowMaker screen offers two sets of shortcuts to help you create shows more efficiently.

- In the Building Blocks viewer, move the mouse to an item and click the right mouse button. A pop-up menu appears offering shortcuts to preview and add the item to the script.
- In the Show Script viewer, click the right mouse button to see a pop-up menu. This menu offers shortcuts to preview, edit, change the timing, rename, move up, move down, and delete the selected item. Click on an option to select it.

# Online

The Online feature offers direct access to your online service from the encyclopedia. Expand your research into the online world and find updated information, fellow users, games, and more! Selected online services, such as *America Online*, offer *Compton's Living Encyclopedia*<sup>™</sup>. Be sure to subscribe—or try one of several trial subscription offers—and visit the world of online services that awaits you!

The Online path also offers the added feature of the Monthly Updater, which allows you to download updates, new articles, and new Web links and to integrate them in the encyclopedia. The information then becomes part of the contents of the encyclopedia and is accessed in the same way you access any other items in the encyclopedia.

The first time you access the Online feature, you must tell the encyclopedia where to find the software for your online service. The latest *America Online* software is included on the program disc. If you do not already subscribe to *America Online*, you can install the software from within the encyclopedia and sign up for a free trial subscription.

To learn about the features you will find in the world of online services, click on the **Online** path button. Then click on the **Online Tips** icon on the left side of the welcome screen.

For details on using the Online feature, click on a topic below:

[Configuring the Encyclopedia for Online Service](#)

[Launching Your Online Service](#)

[Using the Monthly Updater](#)

# Configuring the Encyclopedia for Online Service

To configure the encyclopedia for online service, or to change the current online setting, follow the steps below.

## To install the *America Online* software:

1. Click on the **Online** path button.
2. Click on **Launch Service** at the Online welcome screen. You are then given the option to install the AOL software if it is not already installed on your system.
3. To install AOL, click on **Proceed** on the next two screens and follow the on-screen instructions. To quit the Online feature without installing the AOL software, click on **Cancel**.
  - **Trial Subscribers:** The registration number and passwords that you need to log onto *America Online* are shown on-screen before the log-in screen. Be sure to jot down registration number and passwords so they will be handy when needed. The registration number and passwords are also included in the product package.

## To configure *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* to use your existing online service:

1. Click on the **Online** path button.
2. Click on **Change Settings** at the Online welcome screen.
3. From the Online Change Settings window, choose an online application from those listed. If the service you want does not appear in the list, choose **Other**.
4. Make sure the path displayed in the Path text box points to the appropriate *.exe* file for your online software. If necessary, use the **Browse** button or type the correct path in the Path text box. If you chose **Other** from the list, enter the name of your online service in the Title Text text box.
5. When the settings are correct, click on **OK**.

For information about how to use *America Online* or another online service, see the documentation furnished by your online service provider.

# Launching Your Online Service

Click on the **Online** path button. Then click on **Launch Service** at the Online welcome screen.

**A note to first-time *America Online* users:** If you are not already an *America Online* (AOL) subscriber, you are asked for subscriber information when you first launch the service. Once you are a subscriber, you are taken directly to the *Compton's NewMedia Forum* whenever you launch AOL from the encyclopedia.



# Using the Monthly Updater

The encyclopedia's new Monthly Updater feature keeps you up-to-date with the latest information on people and events in the news, as well as new resources on the World Wide Web. The first week of each month, a new Monthly Updater packet is made available online. Each packet contains updates for the previous month. (For example, the October packet becomes available the first week in November.)

Monthly Updater packets are currently available free on the World Wide Web and to users who have installed and subscribed to *America Online*. Check with your online service for more information about Monthly Updater packets and new places to find and download packets in the future. The July 1996 packet is included on the CD and is ready to be merged.

Keeping your encyclopedia up-to-date with the Monthly Updater is a two-step process. First, download a monthly packet from an online source. Then merge that packet into the encyclopedia database to include Monthly Updater items in the encyclopedia paths and articles.

## Downloading and Merging Monthly Updater Packets

To download a monthly packet, launch an online service that features Monthly Updater or use a Web browser to access the Compton's Monthly Updater page at <http://www.comptons.com/cieupd>. Select a monthly packet and download the packet file into the **updates** folder that is included in the *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* folder on your hard drive. For example, if you installed your program files into the folder `\Program Files\Compton's Home Library\CIE97`, place monthly packet files in the folder `\Program Files\Compton's Home Library\CIE97\updates`.

### To download Monthly Updater packets using a Web browser:

1. Configure the encyclopedia to use the Web browser of your choice, if you have not already done so. See [Configuring the Encyclopedia for Online Service](#).
2. Click on the **Online** path button.
3. Click on **Monthly Updater** at the Online welcome screen.
4. From the Online Monthly Updater window, click on **Monthly Updater**. This launches the Web browser you have selected, as shown in the box under the button, and takes you directly to the Monthly Updater Web page.
5. Follow the step-by-step instructions on the Web page to download the desired packet.
6. When you are finished, exit your Web browser. You return to the Online Monthly Updater window.

### To download Monthly Updater information from *America Online*:

1. Configure the encyclopedia to use *America Online*, if you have not already done so. See [Configuring the Encyclopedia for Online Service](#).
2. Click on the **Online** path button.
3. Click on **Monthly Updater** at the Online welcome screen.

4. From the Online Monthly Updater window, click on **Monthly Updater**. This launches your *America Online* program and takes you to the *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia 1997 Monthly Updater*, which lists the packets available for downloading.
5. Double-click on one of the Monthly Updater packets listed, or select it and click on **Open** to see a summary of its contents.
6. Click on **Download Now** or **Download Later** (if you want to choose more than one packet to download). Then specify the location on your hard drive where you want to download the packets. (Packets must be downloaded in the **updates** folder as described above.)
7. When you are finished, exit *America Online*. You return to the Online Monthly Updater window.

**To merge Monthly Updater information into the encyclopedia:**

1. From the Online Monthly Updater window, click on **Merge Updates**.
2. Specify the location of the packets you want to merge and click on **OK** to merge the packets in the encyclopedia. When finished, you return to the Online Monthly Updater window.
3. Click on **Close** to return to the Online welcome screen. Click **Close** again to return to the encyclopedia's tableau screen.

Once you have successfully merged a packet into the encyclopedia, you can view and search the items by choosing **Monthly Updater Packets** in the Find path viewer.

# The Dictionary/Thesaurus

The Dictionary/Thesaurus appears in the Multimedia Viewer when you double-click on a word in an article or caption in the Article Viewer to see its definition. You can also open the Dictionary/Thesaurus from the Menu Bar, type a word in the viewer's text box, and press **Enter** to see its definition. To see a thesaurus entry, click on the **Thesaurus** button at the top of the viewer.

In the full-screen view, the dictionary features a scrolling list of words and an alphabetical Position Bar with a selector. Drag the selector to move quickly to another letter section in the dictionary or thesaurus.

To move among the entries in the dictionary or thesaurus, click on **Previous** to display the previous entry, click on **Next** to display the next entry.

# Troubleshooting

This product has been extensively tested, and we expect that most customers will enjoy the encyclopedia without ever needing this section. In the event that there is a conflict on your system, we are here to help.

Click on one of the topics below for details:

[Self-Help Tools](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Windows 3.1](#)

[Working with Sound and MIDI Music](#)

[Contacting Technical Support](#)

# Self-Help Tools

We have found that many of our customers prefer to use "self-help" tools, so we have taken steps to provide as many of these as possible.

- If you're not sure what components are installed on your computer or what the program's system requirements are, we've added a utility that will report them to you. From within the encyclopedia, click on **Menu** in the Path Bar and press **Ctrl** while choosing **About CIE**.

If the encyclopedia is not loaded, simply run the *cnmsysi.exe* file on the program CD.

» **Windows 95 users:** Run the *cnmsysi.exe* file in the `\win32\` directory.

» **Windows 3.1 users:** Run the *cnmsysi.exe* file in the `\win\` directory.

- For a more in-depth view of your system, try one of these methods:

» **Windows 95 users:** Using the right mouse button, click on the **My Computer** icon in the top left corner of the desktop. Then select **Properties** from the pop-up menu that appears.

» **Windows 3.1 users:** Use the Microsoft Diagnostic utility that comes with MS-DOS and Windows. Simply go to the DOS prompt, type **MSD** and press **Enter**.

In addition, if you have questions about how Windows 3.1 is configured or if you need to make changes to your Windows 3.1 setup, try the *SysEdit* command. Open the File menu in the Program Manager, and select **Run**. Then type **sysedit** and press **Enter**.

- MS-DOS offers extensive help information. Type **help** at the DOS prompt.
- If you encounter problems while installing the encyclopedia, check the installation "log" file. This text file tells you what files have been installed and where they were installed, and describes any errors that occurred in the process. It can be very useful in determining where a problem may exist. Use a text editor or word processor to open the file called *setupcie.log*. You'll find it in the destination directory you specified during installation.
- This CD contains files that can be run "as is"—there is no file compression. If you need to install the program manually, simply copy the files from the `\win32\` directory (Windows 95 users) or the `\win\` directory (Windows 3.1 users) on the CD to a *CIE97* directory on your hard drive, and create an icon to launch it.
- You can install the *America Online* software without running or installing the encyclopedia. Simply run the *setup.exe* file in the `\aolsetup` directory on the program CD.
- We're connected! You can find us on the Internet at [www.softkey.com](http://www.softkey.com). Our e-mail address is [support@softkey.com](mailto:support@softkey.com).
- Our Tech Support phone system has extensive "Question and Answer" sections available to assist you 24 hours a day. Any of these documents can be sent to the fax machine of your choice by selecting the Fax-On-Demand option. See [Contacting Technical Support](#).

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Windows 3.1

The following questions are frequently asked by *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* users with Windows 3.1 systems. For issues regarding Windows 95 and the latest information on Windows 3.1, refer to the *readme.txt* file on the program CD.

## Can I install *Video for Windows* without using the *Compton's* installation program?

Yes. The Microsoft Video for Windows utility can be run directly from this CD. Simply go to the `\VFW11E\` directory on the CD and run *setup.exe*.

! The Video for Windows supplied on the encyclopedia CD is for Windows 3.1 *only*. Do not install it on a Windows 95 system; Windows 95 already includes the necessary Video for Windows software.

## What do I do about an error message that says: *CDR-101* or *Not Ready Reading (CD drive)*?

Error messages related to the computer's ability to read the CD are often easy to resolve. The following steps should fix most read-errors:

1. Make sure that the CD-ROM disc is clean and free of scratches. CDs can be washed in warm water and dishwashing liquid and dried with a soft, lint-free cloth. Scratched CDs should be replaced.
2. Do not cache the CD-ROM drive. If your computer is using DOS version 6.20 or later and the SMARTDRV caching driver, add a `/U` argument to the line that loads SMARTDRV in your *autoexec.bat* file. The line may appear as `C:\DOS\SMARTDRV.EXE /X/U` or something similar. For more information on SMARTDRV, type **help smartdrv** at the DOS prompt.
3. Assign 20 buffers to reading the CD. This is done by setting the `/M:` argument on the MSCDEX line in your *autoexec.bat* file to **20**. The line may appear as `C:\DOS\MSCDEX.EXE /D:MSCD001 /M:20` or something similar. For more information on Microsoft CD Extensions (MSCDEX), type **help mscdex** at the DOS prompt.

## What do I do about an error message that says: *GPF in Module ????.DRV*?

These error messages are often related to the video driver being used by Windows. Many can be resolved simply by changing the video resolution to **640x480 with 256 colors**. Also make sure your system is up-to-date with the latest drivers available for your video card. These can usually be obtained from your video card manufacturer.

As an alternative, you can install and use Microsoft's Super VGA video drivers. These are available from Microsoft.



# Working with Sound and MIDI Music

*Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* makes full use of the capabilities of the sound card in your computer. The specific features of your sound card vary, depending on your system, but the tips below offer some general suggestions to help you get better results with the sounds and MIDI music in the encyclopedia. For more detailed information, consult the user's guide for your sound card.

- Most sound cards come with mixer software that lets you change the level (volume) of individual sound sources, as well as the overall volume of all the sounds your computer plays. As you explore the encyclopedia, experiment with your mixer software until you find the best combination of levels for playing recorded audio (for example, a bird call) and MIDI music (for example, a waltz by Brahms). In Windows 95, you can also set Multimedia from the Control Panel to display the volume control icon on the taskbar. Click on the icon to adjust the volume for any given sound.
- You can record your voice or other sounds in the ShowMaker to include in a presentation or show you create. For best recording results, make sure that your mixer software is adjusted correctly for recording and that your microphone is plugged into the correct connection on your sound card.

**Note:** When recording sound on your computer, keep in mind that the quality of the recording is directly related to the space the sound file requires on your hard disk. Most sound card software lets you select *8-bit* or *16-bit* and *mono* or *stereo* recording options. For better sound quality—but larger sound files—choose **16-bit** and **mono**. For smaller sound files—but poorer sound quality—choose **8-bit** and **mono**. Avoid using the *stereo* option, as this will double the size of your sound files without significantly increasing the sound quality. No matter which recording options you choose, try to keep the recorded sounds to no longer than 10–15 seconds.

- Once you've found the mixer setting that works best with *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, save those settings so you can use them again. Most mixer software allows you to do this by creating a mix or preferences file.
- If you can't hear the MIDI music in the encyclopedia, first make sure that you've correctly configured your MIDI setup in Preferences. To do this, select **Preferences** from the Menu Bar, then click on the **Setup MIDI Device** button. Follow the instructions in the window that appears. If you still can't hear MIDI music after doing this, check that the appropriate level (often labeled *synth* or *MIDI*) in your mixer software is set high enough. For further questions, consult the user's guide for your sound card.



# Contacting Technical Support

Please take a moment and look over some of the questions you will be asked when you contact Technical Support. We need this information to provide an effective solution to your question.

- Have you tried turning your computer off and back on again? This often clears minor errors.
- Which product do you have? The product title and version number are printed on the CD.
- Are you at the computer? This is very important to help us effectively troubleshoot an error message or conflict on a computer system.
- What kind of computer system do you have? It might be an IBM, Compaq, or other manufacturer's product.
- Which operating system are you using—Windows 95 or Windows 3.1?
- Did you buy the product separately or did it come with a computer or other hardware? Occasionally issues arise with various software and hardware combinations. Knowing which components are installed in your system will help us find the best solution for you more quickly.
- What is the program doing or not doing? If there is an error message, please write it down so you can tell us exactly what it says.
- What was the program doing just before this problem occurred? This will assist us in duplicating the issue.
  - If you encounter a problem loading or using *America Online*, such as transmission difficulties, modem problems, or connection trouble, please contact *America Online* technical support at 1-800-827-3338.

When contacting technical support by any method, please provide as much information as you can about your computer system and the problem you are experiencing, and include a phone number where we can reach you if we need more information.

You can e-mail us via the Internet at [support@softkey.com](mailto:support@softkey.com). The SoftKey Bulletin Board System can be reached via modem at (423) 670-2023.

To reach us by mail, send correspondence to:

SoftKey Technical Support  
9715 Parkside Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37922 USA  
Attn: Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia 97

To contact us by fax, dial (423) 670-2021.

For automated technical support, call (423) 670-2022, 24 hours a day. For fax-on-demand solutions to common problems, call (423) 670-2024, 24 hours a day.

To speak to a technical support agent, please see the *readme.txt* file on the program CD for the proper phone number to call. The *readme.txt* file is in the root or "" directory on the CD.

# Help

On-screen Help provides a detailed guide for exploring the encyclopedia. Use this guide to learn how to use the powerful features of *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*.

Select **Help** in the Help window to learn more about how to use the Windows help feature.

# Recent Events

**Recent Events** is a fascinating video presentation that outlines historic events that have taken place over the last year.

**To view the Recent Events presentation:**

Click on the **Recent Events** option in the Menu Bar. The video presentation appears in a full-screen Multimedia Viewer. Select **Go to Related Item** from the viewer menu to see a text article that describes the events in greater detail.

# Star Quest Game

Star Quest is a fun and compelling game that will initiate you into the wonders of space exploration and astronomy. As a Star Quest astronomer, your mission is to locate and photograph astronomical objects in the night sky using a high-tech telescope called a "starpod." Once you've photographed the target of your quest, watch as the fuzzy object in the sky develops into a beautiful image of a galaxy, nebula, star or other celestial body. You can keep a record of your successful quests by collecting the photographs you take in a personal album.

There are two parts to each quest. In the first leg of your mission, you must locate the constellation that contains the object you seek. Train your sights on a constellation and magnify your view to see if it is the correct one. Once you find the right constellation, you're ready to begin the second part of the mission: finding the actual object within the constellation and photographing it.

When you start a quest, you are shown a drawing of a mythical figure associated with the target constellation, along with a poem that conveys some of the myth that has developed around it and a bit of its history. Once you are familiar with your target, you are ready to start your quest!

## Hints

The key to locating your target object or constellation is to use the star chart, available by clicking on the **Chart** button on the starpod controls. Match the stars you see in the sky from your starpod with the star patterns shown in the star chart. This helps you navigate the starpod towards your target object or constellation. Seasoned players check their position often against the chart, to keep from straying too far from the mark and running out of time.

The quests are arranged in sequence so that each quest builds on the knowledge acquired in the previous one. Quests can be played in any order desired, but starting a quest out of sequence can be very difficult if you are not already familiar with the sky.

## The Starpod Controls

The displays and buttons in your starpod help you navigate your view of the sky and find the object of your quest. The starpod controls are:

### Constellation/Season

This display alternates between the name of your target constellation and the season.

### Message

Check the Message display for important instructions and hints throughout the game.

### Local Time

At the beginning of a quest, the Local Time display shows the time when the target constellation becomes visible in the night sky. Because different constellations appear at different times, the Local Time at the start of the game also varies. Once you begin playing, however, the Local

Time display advances in real time.

### **Time Remaining**

Each quest must be completed within an allotted time. Check the Time Remaining display while playing to see how much time you have left to find your target object or constellation.

### **Right Ascension & Declination**

The Right Ascension and Declination displays show the astronomical coordinates of the point in the sky currently centered in the starpod view.

### **Position Indicator**

The circular position display shows the portion of the night sky that the starpod is currently viewing. The compass points indicate direction, and the moving rectangle shows the portion of the sky you are currently seeing through the starpod.

### **Direction Controls**

Click on the up, down, left and right arrows of the Direction Controls to move your starpod view. Clicking on the up arrow tilts the starpod back, moving your view further and further above the horizon, until you are facing straight up. Clicking on the down arrow moves your view closer to the horizon, until the starpod is absolutely level, aimed directly at the horizon.

### **Magnifying Glass/Camera**

The **Magnifying Glass** button appears only in the first leg of the mission. Once you think you have found the target constellation, click on the **Magnifying Glass** button to enlarge your view and find out if you have the correct constellation in sight. If you try magnifying the wrong constellation, you see a message that tells you so. As time begins to run out, hints start appearing to help you find your target. When you magnify the correct constellation, you immediately begin the second leg of your mission.

In the second leg of the mission, the **Camera** button replaces the **Magnifying Glass** button. Scan the constellation to find the object you seek, and click on **Camera** to photograph it.

### **Quest**

Click on **Quest** to review the image and poem that describes your target constellation.

### **Chart**

Click on **Chart** to see a labeled star map for quick reference whenever you need help.

### **Help**

Click on **Help** to review the introductory information on Star Quest.

## **The Image Album**

When you successfully complete a quest, the photograph you have taken appears in your personal album. To start a new quest, click on any empty slot in the album. To see the space photograph from a completed quest at full size, click on it in the album. This will also display

the caption for the image, which describes the object in detail. To repeat a previously completed quest, hold down the **Control** key and click on the photograph.

# Exploring Questions

**Exploring Questions** is a collection of intriguing questions that lead you into the encyclopedia's vault of facts. When you click on **Exploring Questions** on the Menu Bar, a fascinating question appears. If you don't know the answer, click on **Discover the answer** to see the encyclopedia article that contains it. If you know the answer, or if you want to see another question, click **Next**. Click **Previous** to return to the previous question.

If you want the program to display **Exploring Questions** whenever you open the encyclopedia, click the **Show at Startup** check box. When the check box contains a check mark, **Exploring Questions** is displayed each time you start *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*.



# On This Date

**On This Date** lists some of the major events from world history by date. Select **On This Date** from the Menu Bar and the screen displays a list of major events that happened on this date in history. Use the up and down scroll arrows or type a new month or day in the date box to see a list of events for that date. Click on the **Show Events** button to see a list of historic events, or click on **More Birthdays** to see a list of additional notable people who celebrate their birthday on a particular date.

You can set this feature to appear whenever you start the encyclopedia. Simply click on the **Show at Startup** check box at the bottom of the On This Date window. Next time you open the encyclopedia, **On This Date** will automatically appear.

# Picture Tour

**Picture Tour** takes you on a journey through thousands of pictures in the encyclopedia. You can watch a slide show of randomly selected pictures, or choose a tour that displays pictures on subjects like history or technology.

## **To start the Picture Tour:**

Click on the **Picture Tour** option on the Menu Bar. The pictures automatically start to display one after another.

## **To see a tour in a specific category:**

Open the viewer menu and move to the **Select Tour** option. Click on a tour title in the list to make your selection.

## **To change the size of the Picture Tour viewer:**

Open the viewer menu and click on **Go to Full Screen** or **Go to Small Screen**.

## **To learn more about a picture in the tour:**

Open the viewer menu and click the last option. If there is only one item related to the picture, its title appears at the bottom of the menu. If there are two or more related items, click on the **Go to Related Item** option to select a title from a list.

## **To play the tour backwards:**

Click on the **Reverse Tour** button at the bottom of the viewer.

## **To return to the previous picture in the tour:**

Click on the **Previous** button at the bottom of the viewer.

## **To move to the next picture in the tour:**

Click on the **Next** button at the bottom of the viewer.

## **To stop the tour:**

Click on the **Stop** button at the bottom right of the viewer.

# Research History

Use **Research History** when you want to return to an article or multimedia item that you opened earlier in your exploration of *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*.

**To return to an article or multimedia item:**

Click on the **Research History** option on the Menu Bar. A list of articles and multimedia items you have used appear. To see an item, double-click on it.

# Make Shortcut

This feature, which is available only in Windows 95, creates a shortcut to the current tableau layout. Using a shortcut, you can return to a specific place in the encyclopedia simply by double-clicking on an icon on your Windows desktop.

For instance, if you were researching Michelangelo, you might have the article *Michelangelo* open in the Article Viewer, the Timeline in the Path Viewer, and a slide show in the Multimedia Viewer. Knowing that you want to return to these items during another session, open the Menu Bar and select **Make Shortcut**, then type a name for the shortcut and click on **Save**. Next time you want to work on your Michelangelo project, simply double-click on the shortcut icon on your desktop instead of using the *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* icon on the Windows Start menu. You will be taken directly to the tableau as it appeared when you created the shortcut.

# Bookmark List

Bookmark List displays all the bookmarks you have created while using the encyclopedia. Sets of bookmarks appear as *lists*, which you can name and save separately.

**To create a bookmark for an article or multimedia item in the encyclopedia:**

Select **Bookmark** from the viewer menu.

**To return to a bookmark:**

Select **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar and double-click on the bookmark that represents the item you want.

**To create a new bookmark list:**

Select **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar and select **Start New List** from the viewer menu.

**To open an existing bookmark list:**

Select **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar and select **Open Saved List** from the viewer menu. In the list of names that appears, double-click on a name, or click once on a name to select it, then click on the **OK** button.

**To save a bookmark list:**

Select **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar and select **Save Current List** from the viewer menu. In the box labeled "File Name:", type a path and name for your list. (In Windows 3.1, bookmark file names cannot be more than eight characters long.) Now click on the **OK** button.

**To delete a bookmark from a bookmark list:**

Select **Bookmark List** from the Menu Bar and click on the item you wish to remove. Then select **Remove Item From List** from the viewer menu.

# Dictionary/Thesaurus

The dictionary in *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* is based on *Webster's New World® Dictionary*, 3rd College Edition. The thesaurus is *Webster's New World Thesaurus*, New Revised Edition. Once you've opened the Dictionary/Thesaurus feature, use the buttons at the top of the viewer to select the reference you want to use.

**To see the definition of a word while viewing an article or other text:**

Double-click on the word in the article. The word's definition appears in the Dictionary Viewer, in place of the current Multimedia Viewer.

**To look up a word in the Dictionary/Thesaurus Viewer:**

When the dictionary or thesaurus is already open, type the word you'd like to find in the box labeled Current Word. The word—or the word closest to it—appears in the viewer display.

**To browse through the dictionary or thesaurus (full screen only):**

Click and drag the slider bar in the lower right of the screen to see words starting with a particular letter, then double-click on a word in the list on the left side of the screen to see its definition or thesaurus entry.

# Word Processor

Use the Word Processor to type quick notes while researching or to copy text and pictures. When you select the word processor feature in *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, the program actually loads a word processing program.

Under Windows 3.1, the word processor feature opens the Microsoft *Write* application. Under Windows 95, the word processor opens *WordPad*. However, you can customize the Word Processor feature to use your favorite word processing application instead. Simply select **Preferences** from the Menu Bar and change the word processor setting in the Preferences window.

# Preferences

The Preferences screen contains several options to customize the encyclopedia. Click on the tabs at the top of the Preferences window to select a type of setting to change: Start-up, Sounds & Media, Online, Text, and Explain. Click on the **Default Settings** button at the bottom of the Preferences window to return to the original settings in the current section.

## Start-up

The Start-up section of Preferences allows you to configure some of the things that happen when you load and exit the encyclopedia. Here you can activate or deactivate the opening splash screen and music, as well as the Tips & Hints, Exploring Questions, and On This Date features. Click on the check box adjacent to each option to turn it on or off.

- An "x" or a check mark in a check box means that an option is activated. No check mark indicates an inactive option.

If you want *Compton's* to remember the contents of the Article, Path and Multimedia Viewers that are on screen when you exit the encyclopedia, make sure there is a check mark in the "Save my place..." check box. The next time you run the encyclopedia, it will display the contents of the Article, Path, and Multimedia Viewers that were on screen when you exited.

## Sound & Media

The Sound & Media section allows you to configure some of the sounds that are played in the encyclopedia and the timing of the Picture Tour.

### Setup MIDI Device:

To change the MIDI device driver that is used for the MIDI sounds in the encyclopedia, click on the **Setup MIDI Device** button. Select a driver, then click on **Test** to make sure the driver functions correctly. If the driver is functional, it will play a song. If you do not hear the entire tune, select a different driver.

## Online

The Online section lets you select an online service, or if you don't have or want online access, you may disable the online feature altogether.

To configure the encyclopedia to use your favorite online service, select an application from the list of Online Applications. If you know the exact path to the ".exe" file for your online service, type it in the Path text box. If you don't know the exact path, click on **Browse** to select the .exe file from a directory or folder.

To disable the encyclopedia's online feature, make sure there is no "x" in the check box next to "Display the Online button on the path bar."



## Text

The Text section allows you to link your favorite word processor to the encyclopedia and set the size of the text displayed in encyclopedia articles, tables, and captions.

When you access the Word Processor feature in the encyclopedia, you actually launch a separate word processing program. If you use the encyclopedia on a Windows 3.1 system, the program is set to use Microsoft *Write*. If you use the encyclopedia on Windows 95, the word processor feature opens *WordPad*. However, you can customize the encyclopedia to use whichever word processor you prefer.

To select your favorite word processor setting, click on its name in the list of Word Processors. Be sure to select a program that is installed on your system and confirm that the path is entered correctly. If necessary, click on the **Browse** button to select a program from the files on your system or type in the appropriate path. If the program you select is not on your system, or if the path is inaccurate, the Word Processor feature will not function properly.

In the Text preferences, you can customize the size of the text that appears in the Article Viewer, as well as the Fact and Dictionary/Thesaurus viewers. In the area labeled "Size of text in Compton's," click on the text size you prefer.

## Explain

The Explain section lets you configure how the encyclopedia communicates when you click on the **Explain** command button. Select "Play audio explanations..." if you want to *hear* explanations. If you prefer to *read* help information, select "Display context-sensitive help...."

When you move the cursor over a button on the encyclopedia screen, a short "roll-over" tip appears to tell you about the button's function. If you do not want to see roll-over tips, make sure there is no "x" in the check box adjacent to "Show roll over tips."

# About CIE

**About CIE** displays copyright information and information about the people who created and contributed to the encyclopedia.

## **Special "About" Feature**

Hold down **Ctrl** while selecting **About CIE** to see a list of the minimum system requirements for *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* compared with your system. These diagnostics include the CPU, the version of your Windows, DOS, and Microsoft CD Extensions software, installed memory, the MIDI device, and other hardware and software requirements.

# Tips & Hints

**Tips and Hints** is a collection of informative pointers that can help you get the most out of the encyclopedia's many features. There are four categories of advice: Getting Started, Advanced Hints, Secrets for Experts, and Just for Fun. Select **Tips & Hints** from the Menu Bar whenever you want to learn more about *Compton's*. Or you can set this feature to appear whenever you start the encyclopedia—simply click the check box next to **Show at Startup** in the Tips & Hints window, or select the feature in the Start-up section of the Preferences window.

# Guided Tour

**Guided Tour** is a full-screen video presentation that helps you learn how to use the encyclopedia.

**To start the Guided Tour:**

Click on the **Guided Tour** option on the Menu Bar.

**To stop the Guided Tour while it is playing:**

Press **Esc** on your keyboard, or click on the **Exit** button in the Guided Tour window.

**To play the Guided Tour continuously:**

Click on the **Loop** button. The Guided Tour repeats until you stop it.

# Removing CIE from Windows 95

1. Click on the Windows **Start** button, choose **Settings**, then choose **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click on **Add/Remove Programs** in the Control Panel window.
3. Choose **Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia** from the list of programs displayed.
4. Click on **Add/Remove** to remove the program files from your hard drive.

**Note:** You may also uninstall the encyclopedia by running the *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* setup program from the program CD and selecting **Uninstall the Encyclopedia**. Follow the instructions on your screen to remove the program files from your hard drive. See the Windows 95 installation instructions in the user's guide or the *readme.txt* file for details on how to run the setup program.

# Removing CIE from Windows 3.1

1. Insert the program CD into the CD-ROM drive.
2. Open the Program Manager's **File** menu and choose **Run**.
3. In the Command Line box, type **d:\setup** (or substitute for **d** the letter of your CD-ROM drive) and press **Enter**.

When the setup program detects that *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* has already been installed, you are offered the options of modifying the current installation or uninstalling the program.

4. Choose **Uninstall the Encyclopedia**, click on **Continue**, and follow the instructions on your screen to remove the program files from your hard drive. You can reinstall the program at any time by following the setup instructions in the Windows 3.1 installation instructions in the user's guide or in the *readme.txt* file.

# Electronic Registration

The first time you start *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, you are asked to register the program. When you do, you'll receive technical support, notification of upgrades and new products, and preferred pricing on upgrades and other products.

To register electronically, click on **Next** and type the required information in the text boxes. When you finish, you can send the registration form electronically by modem, or print it out and fax or mail it to Compton's NewMedia. Simply follow the instructions on the screen.

# Credits & Copyrights

## A Note to the User

All images reproduced in this product, including photographs, drawings, maps, and videos, are protected under international copyright law. No reproduction or reuse of this material may be made in any form without permission in writing from the publisher.

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia™  
for Windows 95 and Windows 3.1  
User's Guide  
1997 Edition  
Version 5.1

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