

Adding Page Actions, Movies, and Sounds to PDF Files



By adding movie and sound clips, you can transform your PDF document into a multimedia experience. Movie and sound files can be integrated into PDF documents as playable clips and as link or bookmark actions.

In this lesson, you'll learn how to do the following:

- Assign a page action.
- Add a movie to a document, and set the movie's appearance and playback properties.
- Edit the playback properties of a movie clip.
- Add a link that plays a movie clip.
- Add a link that plays a sound clip.

This lesson will take about 20 minutes to complete.

If needed, remove the previous lesson folder from your hard drive, and copy the Lesson14 folder onto it.

Using movie and sound files

You can use media clips with your PDF documents in a variety of ways. The movie tool in Adobe Acrobat lets you add movies and sounds as playable clips in your document. You can also assign movies and sounds as actions that automatically play when you click a link, bookmark, or button, or when you open or close a page.

When you add a media clip to a PDF document using the movie tool, or when you add a movie clip as an action, the clip does not become part of the document; the document simply contains a pointer that references the media file. If you plan to distribute your PDF document, you must also include these sound or movie files along with the document. However, when you add a sound clip as an action, the sound clip does become part of the PDF file; in this case, you do not have to include the original sound file.

Although you can add movie and sound clips to a PDF document, you cannot create or edit the content of these files using any of the Acrobat programs. You must create your clip using a sound- or video-editing program first, and then save the file in a format that Acrobat can recognize.



For a list of suitable sound and movie formats, see “Integrating media clips into PDFs” in Chapter 10 of the online Adobe Acrobat User Guide.

Opening the work file

In this lesson, you'll work with an online Field Guide for Mount Rainier. The field guide is designed to provide park visitors with an interactive, multimedia tour of Mount Rainier's services, sights, geology, and history. Visitors can use links to follow their own path of interest through the document and view more detailed information about a desired topic.

- 1 Start Acrobat.
- 2 Choose File > Open. Select Geology.pdf in the Lesson14 folder, located inside the Lessons folder within the AA4_CIB folder on your hard drive, and click Open. Then choose File > Save As, rename the file **Geology1.pdf**, and save it in the Lesson14 folder.



Using page actions

You can add sounds and movies as *page actions* to a PDF document. Page actions occur when a page is opened or closed. First, you'll open a page that has an action assigned to it; then you'll assign your own page action.

Activating a page action

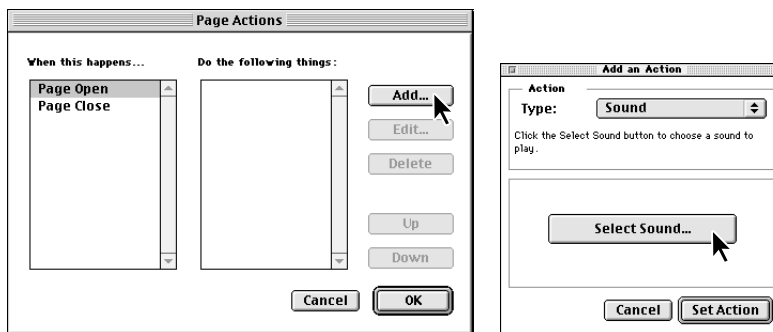
Click About the Park and listen.

A sound plays when the "About the Park" page opens. This is an example of a page action. (You'll hear a sound if you have the proper software and hardware components installed.)

Assigning a page action

Now, you'll add a sound to the history contents page by setting a page action. You should be viewing page 2 of the field guide.

- 1 Click History.
- 2 Choose Document > Set Page Action.
- 3 Select Page Open in the Page Actions dialog box, and click Add.
- 4 In the Add an Action dialog box, choose Sound for the type of action and then click Select Sound.



Add action to occur when page opens.

Specify type of action.

- 5 Select the Sound2.wav (Windows) or Sound2.aif (Mac OS) file in the Lesson14 folder, and click Open.
- 6 Click Set Action, and then click OK.

You have just assigned a sound to play whenever this page is opened. Now you'll try it out.

- 7 Click the Next Page (▶) button.
- 8 Click the Previous Page (◀) button and listen for the sound.
- 9 Click the First Page (◀◀) button.
- 10 Select the page number in the status bar, type 3, and press Enter or Return to go to page 3.

The sound plays again when you open the history page. From now on, you'll hear the sound whenever you open the page, regardless of the method you use to open it.

- 11 Choose File > Save to save the Geology1.pdf file.

Actions can also be assigned to occur when a page closes. And you can assign more than one action to occur and control the order in which they occur. To learn how to assign multiple actions to a button, see Lesson 15, “Enhancing a Multimedia Project.”

Using movies in PDF files

You activate a movie in a PDF document much as you activate a link. A certain area on the page is designated as the active area for the movie; clicking in this hot spot plays the movie.

You’ll practice activating an existing movie in the field guide and also adding a new movie to the document.

Playing a movie

You should be viewing page 3 of the field guide.

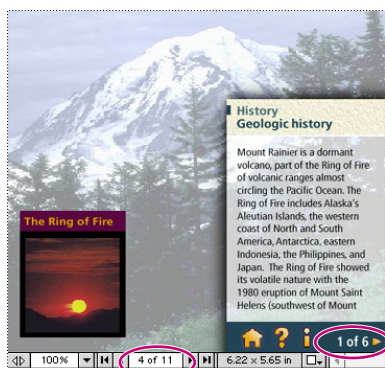
- 1 Click Geologic History to find out more about the park’s natural formations.

The first geologic history screen appears.

- 2 If necessary, adjust the view magnification to display the entire page on-screen.

The topic window contains page navigation features for moving to the next screen. The Geologic History series spans six screens.

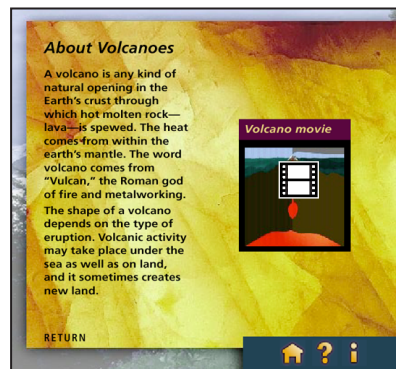
Notice that the page number on the page reads “1 of 6,” while the page number in the status bar reads “4 of 11.” When you create a custom page-numbering sequence in a document, you can expect this sequence to differ from the default page numbering shown in the status bar, which always regards the first page of a document as page 1. For information on changing the default page numbering shown in the status bar, see “Editing pages” on page 112.



- 3 Click the forward arrow at the bottom right corner of the page to go to screen 2 of the sequence (page 5 in the status bar). Then click the About Volcanoes graphic to follow its link.
- 4 Move the pointer over the Volcano Movie graphic. Notice that the pointer changes to a movie frame pointer.
- 5 Click the Volcano Movie graphic to show the movie clip.



Hand pointer indicates link to page.



Movie frame pointer indicates link to movie.

The movie plays inside a *floating window* that appears in front of the document temporarily. You can also have a movie play directly in the document page without a floating window.

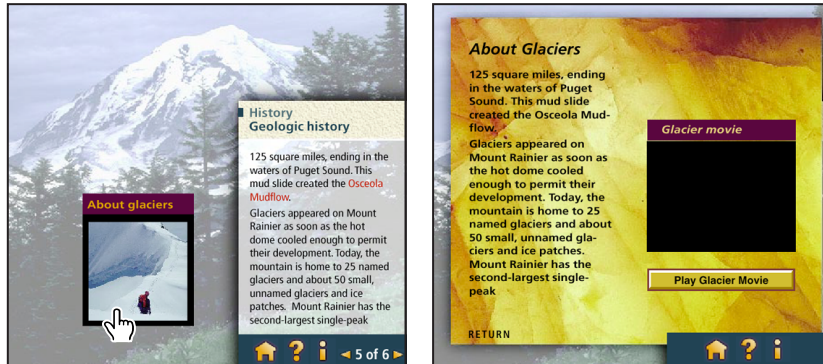
- 6 Click RETURN in the page when you're finished viewing the movie to return to the Geologic History section.


Adding a movie

You'll add a movie about glaciers to the About Glaciers information screen and have it play directly inside its activation area in the document.


- 1 Click the forward arrow three times to go to screen 5 of the Geologic History sequence (page 8 in the status bar).

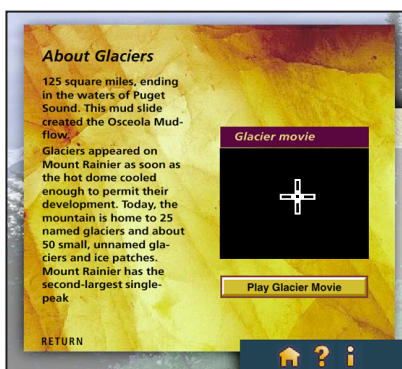
- Click the About Glaciers graphic to view its information screen.



- If necessary, click the Actual Size button () to return to a 100% view.

Because movies have a set number of pixels and therefore a set size, it's important to keep the magnification at 100% to prevent the added movie clip from being scaled inadvertently.

- Select the movie tool () in the tool bar.
- Click in the center of the black box to set the location for the movie. Be sure to click, not drag, with the movie tool.



When you click to place a movie, the pixel size of the movie frame determines the activation area for the clip in the document. You can also drag with the movie tool to specify the activation area, but this is not advised, because the movie frame must then be stretched or compressed to fit into the specified area. This resizing often results in distortion and poor image quality.

When you're adding a movie using a floating window, however, you can drag freely with the movie tool to set the activation area. The size of a floating window is determined by its Movie Properties setting, not by the activation area you set by dragging.

6 Select Glacier.mov, located in the Lesson14 folder, and click Open.

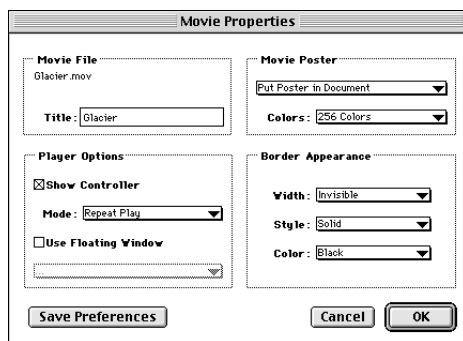
The Movie Properties dialog box lets you set the appearance and playback behavior of the movie. You can also specify whether to place a poster (a still image of the first movie frame) in the document.

7 For Title, enter **Glacier**. For Movie Poster, choose Put Poster in Document.

8 Under Player Options, select Show Controller. For Mode, choose Repeat Play. Deselect Floating Window (Windows) or Use Floating Window (Mac OS).

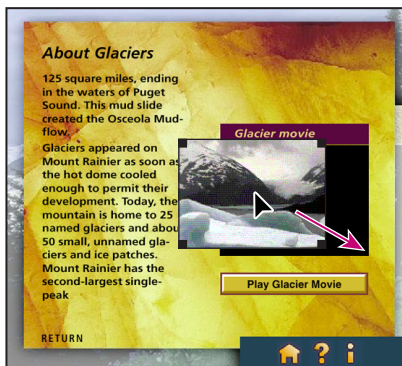
Selecting Show Controller displays the controller bar, which lets the viewer stop, pause, and rewind the movie.

9 Under Border Appearance, choose Invisible for the Width. Then click OK.



The movie poster appears in the document.

10 Move the pointer over the poster until the arrow (▶) appears, and drag the movie poster to position it inside the Glacier Movie box.



Drag to position new movie poster.

You can also resize the poster by dragging the corners of the poster. However, remember that resizing the movie area may result in a distorted image.

11 Select the hand tool (☞), and test the movie you just added. Use the buttons and the slider in the controller bar to pause, rewind, and advance through the movie.

You can stop a movie at any time by pressing Esc or clicking outside the movie image.

12 Choose File > Save to save the Geology1.pdf file.

Adding a link that plays a movie

In addition to linking different page views, links can be used to perform actions such as playing movie or sound clips. You must first add a movie to a document before you can create a link that activates it, and the link you create must be on the same page as the movie. In this part of the lesson, you'll create a new link that plays the glacier movie that you have already added.

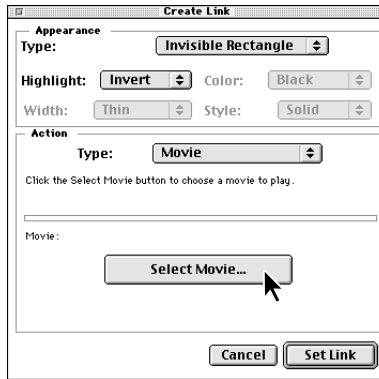
1 Select the link tool (🔗), and drag a marquee around the Play Glacier Movie button.

2 In the Create Link dialog box, under Appearance, choose Invisible Rectangle for the type. Under Action, choose Movie for the type.

- 3 Click Select Movie. For Select Movie, choose Glacier. For Select Operation, choose Play. Then click OK.



Drag marquee around button.



Create link to Glacier movie.

- 4 Click Set Link.
- 5 Use the hand tool to test your new link.

Editing movie properties

You can change the playback properties of a movie at any time.

- 1 Select the movie tool, and double-click within the glacier image to display the Movie Properties dialog box.
- 2 Under Player Options, deselect Show Controller. For Mode, choose Play Once Then Stop. Then click OK.
- 3 Select the hand tool, and click Play Glacier Movie to see the modified playback properties.

Tips for adding movie and sound clips

When adding movie and sound clips to PDF documents, consider the following suggestions:

- Use a graphic image for the activation area of the link to a movie. You can do this by inserting an image that you capture from the movie. (Capture the image using a movie authoring application.) Once the image is incorporated into the PDF document, draw a rectangle around it to specify the play area for the movie. Then deselect the Display Poster option from the Movie Properties dialog box, and select Use Floating Window.
- Use a miniature version of the movie poster to create an icon for the movie. The movie can play in a separate window. You can create the icon by adjusting the movie boundaries to less than full size, and then selecting Display Poster. The Use Floating Window option sets the movie to play in a separate window.
- Use a play action other than Play Once Then Stop when a controller bar is used with a clip. Selecting the controller bar stops the clip. Double-clicking inside the movie frame starts it playing again.
- Use movie and sound files that are located on your hard disk or on a CD-ROM with your PDF files. This ensures optimum performance. If you link your PDF documents to movie or sound files residing across a network or on the World Wide Web, performance decreases.

—From the online Adobe Acrobat User Guide, Chapter 10

Using sounds in a document

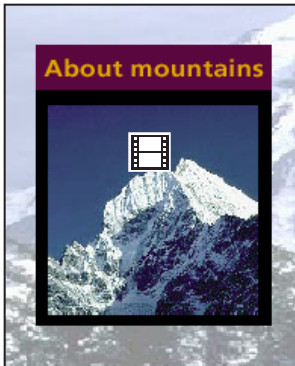
You can add sound to a PDF document as a page action, as an action associated with a link or a bookmark, or as a sound clip placed with the movie tool.

Activating an existing sound

You'll play a sound clip that was added to the About Mountains information screen using the movie tool.

- 1 Select the page number in the status bar, type **6**, and press Enter or Return to view the screen containing the About Mountains image.

- 2 Using the hand tool, move the pointer over the About Mountains image. Notice that the pointer turns into the movie frame pointer.



The movie frame pointer indicates that either a movie or sound clip can be activated.

- 3 Click the About Mountains image to play the sound that has been added to this location.

Adding a sound as a link action

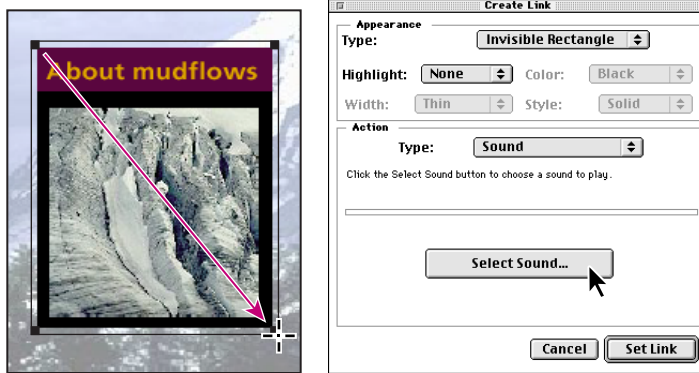
Next, you'll create a link that plays a sound as an action.

- 1 Click the forward arrow on the page to view the screen that contains the About Mudflows image (page 4 of the Geologic history section).

You'll add a sound that will be activated by clicking the About Mudflows image.

- 2 Select the link tool in the tool bar.
- 3 Drag a marquee that surrounds the About Mudflows image.
- 4 In the Create Link dialog box, under Appearance, choose Invisible Rectangle for the type. For Highlight, choose None.
- 5 Under Action, choose Sound for the type, and then click Select Sound.

6 Select the Mud.wav (Windows) or Mud.aif (Mac OS) file in the Lesson14 folder, and click Open.



Drag marquee around graphic.

Create link to Mud sound.

7 Click Set Link.

8 Select the hand tool, and move the pointer over the About Mudflows graphic. Click the link to play the sound you just added.

9 Choose File > Save As, make sure that Optimize is selected, and save Geology1.pdf in the Lesson14 folder. Click Yes (Windows) or Replace (Mac OS) to confirm replacing the file. The Save As command lets you save a smaller, optimized version of your finished file.

10 Choose File > Close to close the document.

Review questions

- 1 What kinds of actions can you assign as page actions?
- 2 When using the movie tool to add a movie to a document, why should you click instead of drag?
- 3 What is a movie poster?
- 4 Name three ways in which you can add sound to a PDF document.
- 5 Can you edit the content of movie and sound clips from within Acrobat?

Review answers

- 1 You can assign Execute Menu Item, Go to View, Import Form Data, JavaScript, Movie, Open File, Read Article, Reset Form, Show/Hide Field, Sound, Submit Form, World Wide Web Link, and None actions to a page action.
- 2 If you drag with the movie tool, the movie is resized to fit inside the dragged area on the page, resulting in distorted image quality. Clicking with the movie tool lets you place a movie in its original size on the page.
- 3 A movie poster consists of a still image of the first movie frame. You can choose whether or not to display a movie poster in the activation area for a movie on the page.
- 4 You can add sound to a PDF document in these three ways: as a page action, as an action associated with a link or a bookmark, and as a sound clip placed with the movie tool.
- 5 No, you cannot edit the content of movie and sound clips from within Acrobat.