WHAT IS AUGMENTED REALITY?

Augmented reality (AR) software mixes the real and the virtual worlds together, so that a computer with a webcam can bring books to life with amazing 3D animations.

What do I need to do to be able to see the Augmented Reality?

To run the augmented reality successfully you will need a computer that meets the minimum system requirements (see below), a webcam, the downloadable software found at kids.nationalgeographic.com/monstersofthedeep, and the 3-D Action cards in this books.

Will it work on my computer? I have a PC.

You will need:
• A webcam
• CPU – Intel Pentium 4 2.4GHZ or above or AMD equivalent
• RAM – 1GB memory
• Graphics card – Nvidia GeForce FX series or above/ATI Radeon X series or above/AMD G series chipset or above/ Intel 900G series or above:
• PC Operating System: Windows XP SP2 or above, Windows Vista, Windows 7

How do I find out if my PC has the right specifications?
Right click on My Computer and left-click on Properties. As this is new technology this may not work on computers with older specifications.

Will it work on my computer? I have an Apple Mac.

You will need:
• A webcam
• CPU – Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4GHZ or above
• RAM – 1GB memory
• Graphics card – Nvidia Display
• Macintosh Operating System: Mac OS 10.4, 10.5 and 10.6

How do I find out if my Apple Mac has the right specification?
Click on the apple in the top left hand corner of your screen and choose About This Mac, this will show you your processor speed, to find out about your graphics card click on More Info and the choose Graphics/Displays. As this is new technology this may not work on older specification computers.

I've checked and I have everything I need. Now what do I do?

The software found at the link below will allow your computer and webcam to recognize and display the Augmented Reality parts of the book.

Follow the simple instructions found at the front of the book.

1. Go to: kids.nationalgeographic.com/monstersofthedeep to download the software. Choose Mac or PC as appropriate for your computer, then double-click on the downloaded software file to start the program.

2. Once the software has opened, your webcam will activate. Show the webcam one of the 3-D Action cards inside the book and the 3D animation will begin.

3. Keeping the card in view of the webcam, follow the instructions on the AR page to activate different sequences and activities.
HELPFUL TIPS

For the best Augmented Reality experience, avoid having too much light reflecting on the page.

Always try and keep the card in view of the webcam, if you move it away too far out of view it will lose the link to the software and you will have to start again.

Try turning or tilting the card to get a different view.

You can get really close to the action by holding the card closer to the webcam – depending on your webcam, most 3-D Action cards can go as close as 4 inches (10 cm). Experiment with distance to find the best experience.

Make sure your speakers are turned up loud, unless you are in a library or public place where it might disturb others.

PROBLEM SOLVING

A lot of problems can be resolved by ensuring you have the correct minimum specification on your computer (see above).

Older computers may run slower than newer computers, and take more time to install and start, but once they start working it should work just as quick. Most computers with the correct specifications should take less than a minute to install the software, but a few may take longer.

I have the minimum specification but my software won’t install. What should I do?
If you have other software programs running try turning them off and installing again.

My software has installed and the program starts up but I can’t activate the Augmented Reality. What should I do?
Ensure that the 3-D Action card is well lit but be careful not to catch too many bright reflections. When the entire card is in view and not too tilted, try slowly moving it closer to the webcam.

I can get the AR animations to appear on screen, but they keep disappearing. What should I do?
Try the following: don’t make sudden movements when holding the card in front of the webcam, avoid too much light reflecting on the page, change the distance between the card and the webcam, or tilt the card so that it faces the webcam more.

Can I view the animations more closely to see the details?
Yes – try moving the card closer to the webcam.

Can I view the animation from different angles?
On some animations, yes – experiment by rotating and tilting the card.

How can I view the animations at full screen?
Try clicking the green button on your screen.

How can I close the AR screen?
Try clicking the red X on your screen or by pressing the ESC key on your keyboard.
Should I expect to hear sound when I watch the animations?
Yes – check that your computer is not set to mute and that the volume is not turned down all the way.

AUGMENTED REALITY BOOKS

I HAVE MONSTERS OF THE DEEP. WHAT AR SHOULD I SEE? WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

With 3-D Action card 1, prepare to meet the great white shark.
· To prepare for your dive, hold the shark card up to your webcam.
· To lower the diving cage, press the RETURN key on your keyboard.
· To search for sharks, ROTATE the Action card to the left and right.
· Press the LEFT key on your keyboard to watch a video of the great white shark.
· Press the RIGHT key, then the number keys, to discover other types of shark.

With 3-D Action card 2, prepare to meet the blue whale.
· To prepare for your dive, hold the blue whale card up to your webcam.
· To dive down into the ocean, press the RETURN key on your keyboard.
· To search for the blue whale, ROTATE the Action card to the left and right.
· Press the LEFT key on your keyboard to watch a video of the blue whale.
· Press the RIGHT key, then the number keys, to discover other types of whale.

With 3-D Action card 3, prepare to meet the manta ray.
· To prepare for your dive, hold the manta ray card up to your webcam.
· To dive down into the ocean, press the RETURN key on your keyboard.
· To search for manta rays, ROTATE the Action card to the left and right.
· Press the LEFT key on your keyboard to watch a video of the manta ray.
· Press the RIGHT key, then the number keys, to discover creatures related to the manta.

With 3-D Action card 4, prepare to meet the angler fish.
· To prepare for your dive, hold the angler fish card up to your webcam.
· To lower the submersible, press the RETURN key on your keyboard.
· To search for the angler fish, ROTATE the Action card to the left and right.
· Press the LEFT key on your keyboard to watch a video of the angler fish.
· Press the RIGHT key, then the number keys, to discover other deep-sea monsters.