

enVisionMATHS Online Tutorial Guide 4

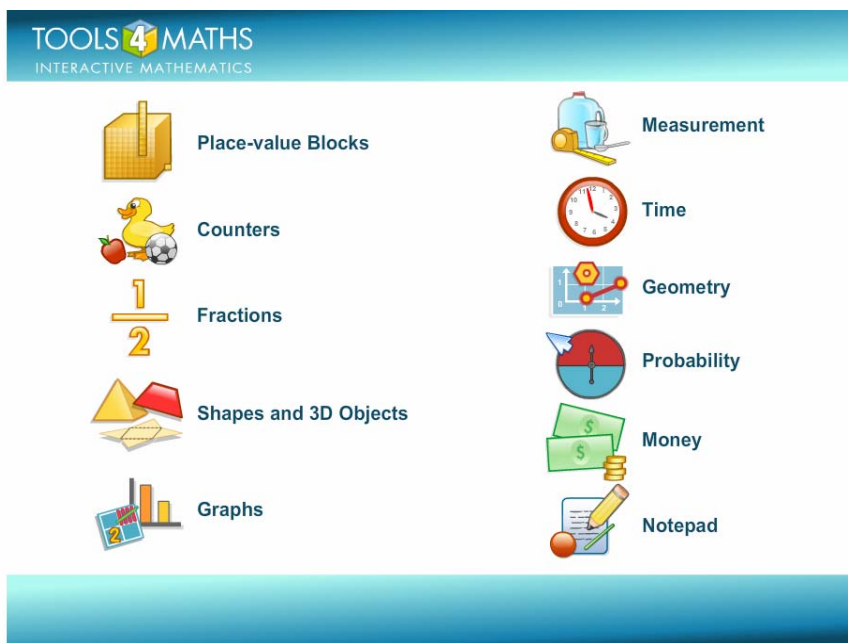
Tutorial 4.1: Tools4Maths Overview

Introduction

This guide will introduce you to Tools4Maths so that you can develop an understanding of the tools and how you might use them in your classroom.

Purpose of Tools4Maths

Tools4Maths is a suite of digital, lively, animated maths learning tools.

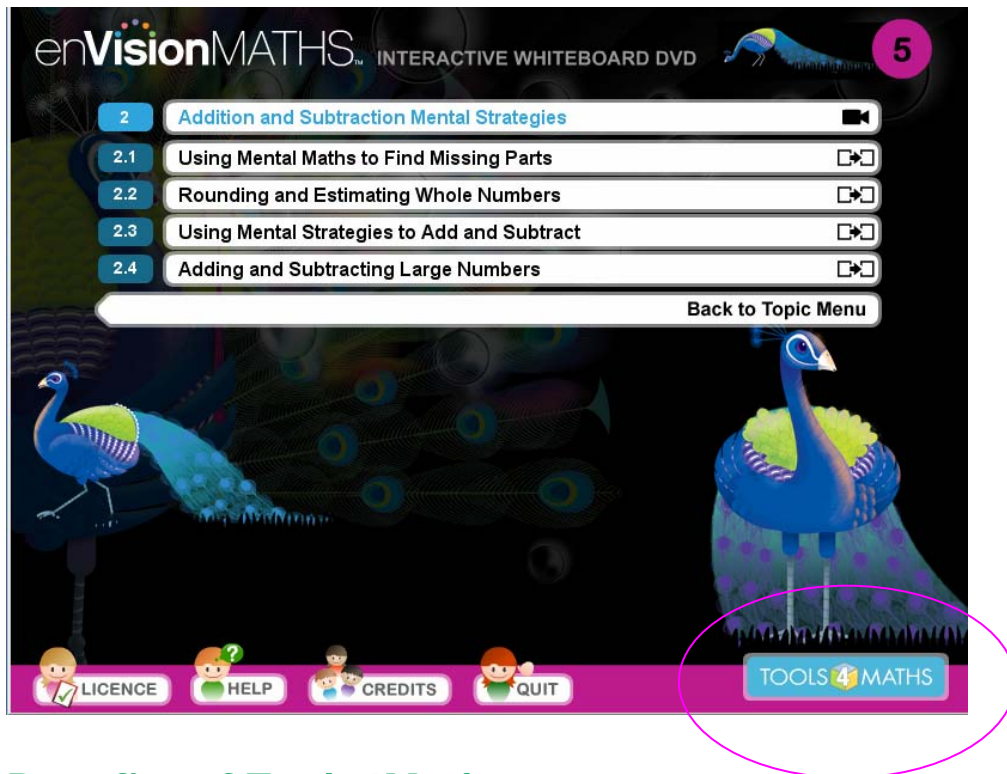


These tools help students deepen their understanding of important maths concepts as they explore and interact with a variety of digital objects.

Teachers can use Tools4Maths to model solutions to maths problems during whole-class or small-group instruction. Students can use Tools4Maths to demonstrate their knowledge, practise maths skills and explore maths concepts.

Where is Tools4Maths?

Tools4Maths is on the Interactive Whiteboard DVD for each year level. It can be accessed by clicking on the Tools4Maths icon at the bottom of every screen on the DVD.



Benefits of Tools4Maths

Students benefit from seeing maths ideas portrayed pictorially. Interacting with digital manipulatives also actively engages them in thinking about and solving problems. You may already use physical manipulatives such as place-value blocks, play money, tangrams or geoboards in your classes.

Consider how digital manipulatives may have some advantages over physical manipulatives. Tools4Maths provides quick and easy access to a large number of counters, shapes and Australian money.



Students can see more easily how teachers are manipulating objects when Tools4Maths is projected onto a screen or interactive whiteboard.

The digital environment allows you to create unique workspaces where teachers and students can measure time in different formats; count frogs, fish or round objects; and explore probability outcomes. These are just a few examples of what Tools4Maths can do. And, there is no cleaning up!

Options for Use

There are a variety of ways to use Tools4Maths that suit individual instructional styles and meet the needs of students.

With a computer connected to an LCD projector or TV monitor, use Tools4Maths during whole-class instruction.

With an interactive whiteboard, provide examples of concepts or model maths solutions. Invite students to interact with Tools4Maths on the whiteboard to explain their thinking to classmates.

Tools4Maths is also ideal for small-group work using different computers around the classroom.

Also, students can work independently with Tools4Maths on their own computers.