



Adobe  
**After Effects**  
2020 release



# **CLASSROOM IN A BOOK®**

The official training workbook from Adobe

Brie Gyncild & Lisa Fridsma



Adobe  
**After Effects**  
2020 release



**CLASSROOM IN A BOOK®**

The official training workbook from Adobe

Brie Gyncild & Lisa Fridsma

# 5 ANIMATING A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

## Lesson overview

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

- Create a complex animation with multiple layers.
- Adjust the duration of a layer.
- Animate with Position, Scale, and Rotation keyframes.
- Use parenting to sync the animation of layers.
- Use Bezier curves to smooth a motion path.
- Animate a precomposed layer.
- Apply effects to a solid layer.
- Fade out audio.



This lesson will take about an hour to complete. If you haven't already done so, download the project files for this lesson from [www.adobepress.com/AfterEffectsCIB2020](http://www.adobepress.com/AfterEffectsCIB2020), following the instructions in the Getting Started section under "Accessing the lesson files and Web Edition."



PROJECT: ANIMATED VIDEO

Animation by Lee Daniels, [www.leeedanielsart.com](http://www.leeedanielsart.com)

Adobe After Effects projects typically use a variety of imported footage, arranged in a composition, that is edited and animated using the Timeline panel. In this lesson, you'll become more familiar with animation fundamentals as you build a multi-media presentation.



# Getting started

In this project, you will animate a hot air balloon floating through the sky. All seems peaceful until a gust of wind blows the balloon's colorful canvas off to cover the clouds.

- 1 Make sure the following files are in the Lessons/Lesson05 folder on your hard disk, or download them from [www.adobepress.com](http://www.adobepress.com) now:
  - In the Assets folder: Balloon.ai, Fire.mov, Sky.ai, Soundtrack.wav
  - In the Sample\_Movies folder: Lesson05.mov, Lesson05.avi
- 2 Open and play the Lesson05.avi sample movie in Windows Movies & TV or the Lesson05.mov sample movie in QuickTime Player to see what you will create in this lesson. When you are done, close Windows Movies & TV or QuickTime Player. You may delete the sample movies from your hard disk if you have limited storage space.

As you start After Effects, restore the default application settings. See “Restoring default preferences” on page 3.

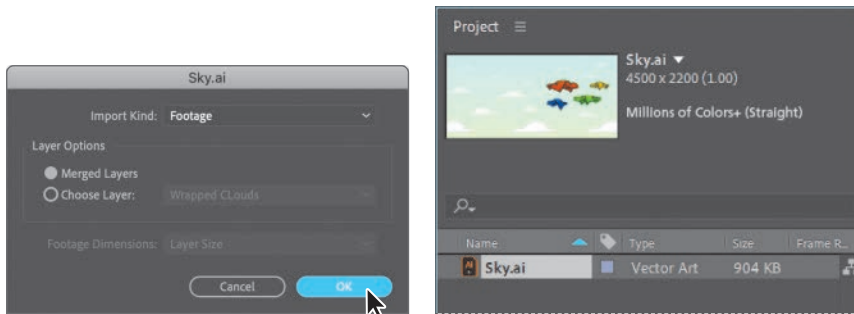
- 3 Start After Effects, and then immediately hold down Ctrl+Alt+Shift (Windows) or Command+Option+Shift (macOS) to restore default preferences settings. When prompted, click OK to delete your preferences.
- 4 Click New Project in the Home window.
- 5 Choose File > Save As > Save As.
- 6 In the Save As dialog box, navigate to the Lessons/Lesson05/Finished\_Project folder. Name the project **Lesson05\_Finished.aep**, and then click Save.

## Importing the footage

Next, you'll import the footage you need for the project, including the balloon.ai composition.

- 1 Double-click an empty area of the Project panel to open the Import File dialog box.
- 2 Navigate to the Lessons/Lesson05/Assets folder on your hard disk, and select the Sky.ai file.
- 3 Choose Footage from the Import As menu, and then click Import or Open.

- 4 In the Sky.ai dialog box, make sure Merged Layers is selected, and then click OK.



- 5 Double-click an empty area of the Project panel, navigate to the Lessons/ Lesson05 /Assets folder, and select the Balloon.ai file.
- 6 Choose Composition – Retain Layer Sizes from the Import As menu, and click Import or Open.
- 7 Press Ctrl+I (Windows) or Command+I (macOS) to open the Import File dialog box again.

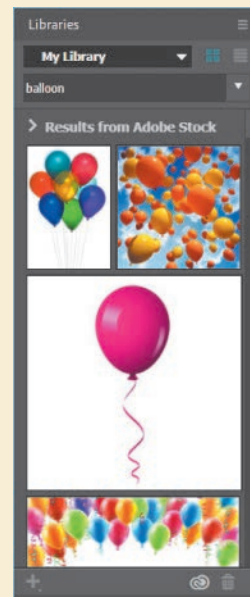
## Using Creative Cloud Libraries in After Effects

Easily access images, videos, colors, and other assets you've created in After Effects and other Adobe applications. Through Creative Cloud Libraries, you can also use Looks, shapes, and other assets you create with Adobe Capture and other mobile apps. Creative Cloud Libraries also make it easy to access After Effects motion graphic templates in Adobe Premiere Pro.

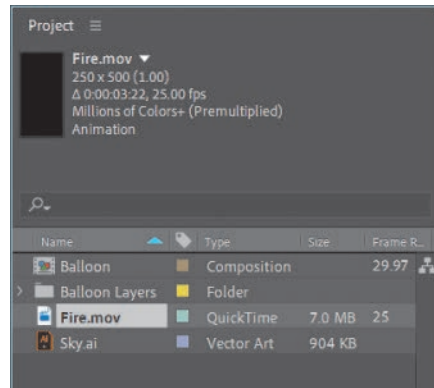
Even Adobe Stock images and videos are available in the Libraries panel: Search and browse assets within the panel, download watermarked versions to see how they work with your projects, and license the ones you want to keep—all without leaving After Effects.

The same search bar you use to search Adobe Stock makes it easier to find specific items in your Creative Cloud Libraries, too.

To learn more about all the ways you can use Creative Cloud Libraries, see After Effects Help.



- 8 Navigate to the Lessons/Lesson05/Assets folder, and select the Fire.mov file.
- 9 Make sure Footage is chosen in the Import As menu, and click Import or Open.

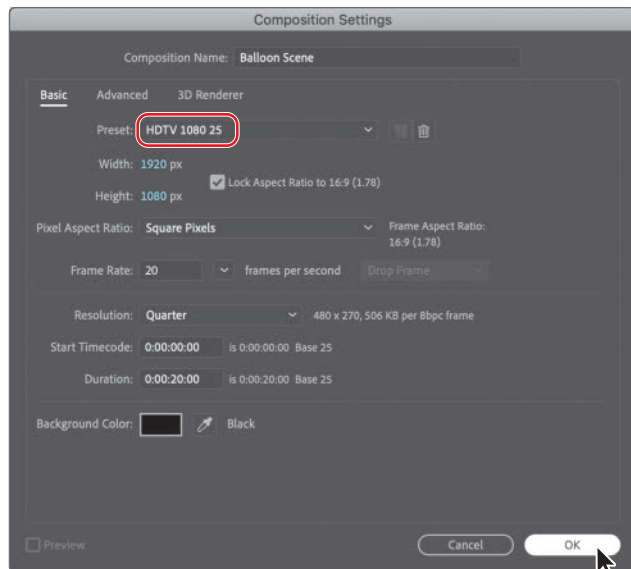


## Creating the composition

You'll create the composition and add the sky.

- 1 Click New Composition in the Composition panel.
- 2 In the Composition Settings dialog box, do the following:
  - Name the composition **Balloon Scene**.
  - Choose HDTV 1080 25 from the Preset menu.
  - Make sure Square Pixels is chosen from the Pixel Aspect Ratio menu.
  - Make sure the Width is **1920** px and Height is **1080** px.
  - Choose Quarter for the Resolution.
  - Set Duration to **20** seconds (20:00).
  - Click OK.

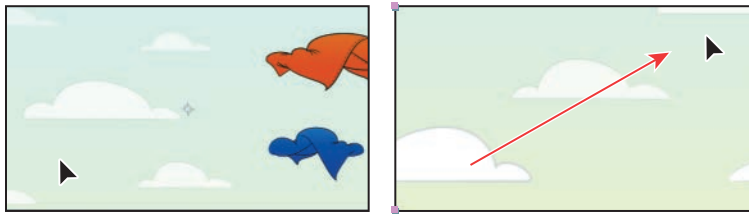
● **Note:** If you change Pixel Aspect Ratio or Width settings, the Preset name may change to Custom in the Composition Settings panel.



- 3 Drag the Sky.ai footage item from the Project panel into the Timeline panel.

The balloon will float across the Sky.ai image. The far right of the image contains the canvas-wrapped clouds that appear at the end of the scene. The wrapped clouds shouldn't be visible earlier in the movie.

- 4 In the Composition window, drag the Sky layer so that its lower left corner is even with the lower left corner of the composition.

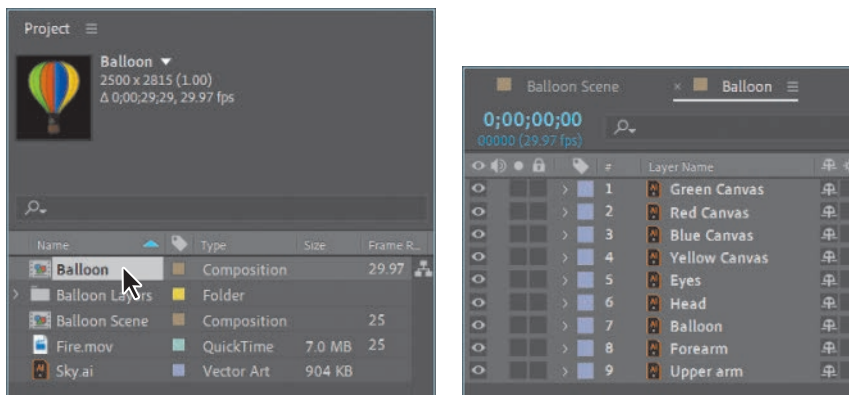


## Adjusting anchor points

The anchor point is the point around which transformations, such as scaling or rotation, are performed. By default, a layer's anchor point is at the center of the layer.

You'll change the anchor points for the character's arm and head so that you can better control the character's movements as he tugs on the cord to ignite the fire and as he looks up and down.

- 1 Double-click the Balloon composition in the Project panel to open it in the Composition panel and the Timeline panel.



The Balloon composition includes layers for the canvas colors, the balloon itself, and the character's eyes, head, forearm, and upper arm.