

Weirdstop™ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We have compiled the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about using Weirdstop™ to assist you. The FAQs are listed in subject groupings below.

You might also like to refer to your enclosed User Guide booklet.

1. CDROM Installation

How do I start the Weirdstop™ CD-ROM?

Place the CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive and wait for it to autostart. If it does not, follow the instructions on enabling autostart or starting the CD-ROM without autostart. After the CD-ROM is running, follow the on-screen instructions.

The program doesn't seem to be running properly. What are the minimum requirements to run this CD-ROM?

To run Weirdstop™ at optimal level, you will require:-

- Macromedia Flash Player 6;
- Adobe®Reader®;
- Screen resolution 800x600; and
- Internet Explorer / Netscape browser version 5 or above.

There are links to the Macromedia and Adobe websites on the Weirdstop™ homepage.

Alternatively you can download Macromedia Flash Player 6 by going to www.macromedia.com/downloads

And you can download Adobe®Reader® by going to www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

The page does not fit into my window. What is wrong?

The minimum resolution for the Weirdstop CD-ROM is 800 x 600. Please ensure you are running at least at this level.

You can change this setting by going to your Control Panel; select Display; select Settings; ensure screen resolution is set at 800 x 600; Click OK.

You may need to restart your computer to save these settings.

2. Installation of Programs

The opening screen says that I need to install Macromedia Flash Player 6. What is Macromedia Flash Player 6?

Macromedia Flash Player 6 is a multimedia plug-in that allows the animations on the CD-ROM to run. You can get Macromedia Flash Player 6 simply by clicking on the icon "Macromedia FLASH PLAYER" on the Weirdstop™ homepage. Then follow the prompts provided at the Macromedia download centre.

Or you can go directly to www.macromedia.com/downloads

The opening screen says that I need to install Adobe®Reader®

What is Adobe®Reader®? How do I get it?

Adobe®Reader® is a multimedia program that allows various documents on the CD-ROM to be viewed through a web browser or the Acrobat Reader™ program. You can get the Adobe®Reader® program simply by clicking on the icon "Get Acrobat® Reader®" on the Weirdstop™ homepage. Then follow the prompts to download from the Adobe Reader website.

Or you can go directly to www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

3. Site Navigation

Can I use the navigation icons in my browser?

Do not use the navigation icons in your browser. Please use the navigation feature, built into Weirdstop™.

Where are the answers to the Thinksmart activities?

The answers to the online activities are revealed as the student progresses through the Thinksmart questions. Correct answers are required for the student to proceed. Teachers can also access the solutions from the password protected area on the Teachers' Lounge.

From the Teachers' Lounge, click on "Get THINKSMART solutions here" at the bottom of the screen. The solutions are password protected. You need to enter username: **teacher** and password: **teacher**

What are the different sections of the Weirdstop™ CD-ROM and website?

All nine online stories are accessed from the HOME page. Also on this page is access to the Help, Teachers' Lounge, Wallpapers, E-cards, Credits and Contact areas.

Each of the nine stories has Thinksmart questions following the text. Workwiz activities for each story are found in the Teachers' Lounge.

What do each of the icons on the jungle homepage link to?

The Weirdstop homepage has been designed so users 'explore' their way through stories. Each of the images in the jungle takes us to particular stories.

Picture Frame: *Who's Crying?*

Shell Creature: *Underwater Nightmare*

Babyface: *Babyghost*

TV screen: *Imagine Centre*

Telephone: *Collector*

Diary: *Out Of The Red*

Eyes: *Eye to Eye*

Ball and Chain: *Chair*

Ice Pick: *Ice Journey*

How do I navigate through the stories?

It is important for the user to navigate through the stories using the inbuilt navigation features and the scroll bars. Do not use the browser.

Where can I get the text for each story?

As well as being viewed on the screen, the complete text for each story is available from the Thinksmart feature. On the Thinksmart pages, there is a link on the top right hand corner to the story texts in Adobe®Reader® format (pdf). These can also be printed.

4. THINKSMART Activities

Are there activity pages to use with these stories?

Yes. Each story has online activities that are revealed as the user progresses through the story. At the end of each online story are nine Thinksmart self-correcting questions. Further extension work (WORKWIZ) and Away From The Computer activities can be found at the Teachers' Lounge.

What are the story categories?

All stories in Weirdstop™ have been categorized into Relaxing Read, Challenging, Extra Challenging (which is the most demanding level). This is based on length of story and vocabulary used.

When I click on the story texts in Thinksmart nothing appears. What is wrong?

You probably do not have Acrobat Reader installed. Go to the Weirdstop™ homepage; click on the Acrobat reader icon; and follow the prompts to install. Or you can go directly to www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

Does my student / child have to complete the activities and games or can I jump straight to Thinksmart?

To get to Thinksmart the user needs to progress through the online stories – options are given to skip the games.

Are there solutions to Thinksmart questions?

The activities are designed to be self-correcting and students can complete at their own pace. The Thinksmart solutions are available from the Teachers' Lounge.

Click on "Get THINKSMART solutions here" at the bottom of the screen. The solutions are password protected. You need to enter username: **teacher** and password: **teacher**

I have activity ideas for the stories that have worked really well with my students. Where can I send them so that they can be used by other teachers?

Simply send your activity ideas to ideas@weirdstop.com.au

5. Workwiz Activities

How do I access the Workwiz pages?

The Workwiz pages are contained in the Teachers' Lounge accessed from the HOME page. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to open these pages.

The Workwiz pages don't appear. What is wrong?

Check that you have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed. See FAQ on installing Acrobat Reader.

6. Images and Sound

The animations won't run. What is wrong? What settings do I need on my computer?

Make sure you have Macromedia Flash Player 6 installed and that your computer meets the minimum requirements.

My wallpapers won't load

Be sure you have selected the correct size wallpaper for your screen. To determine your computer screen dimensions, check your current computer display settings. These are located within the Start/Settings/Control Panel/Display for PC users; or for Mac users go to Control Panel/Appearances/Desktop.

My e-cards won't send.

You must be connected to the internet to create and send e-cards.

The pages are running really slowly. What is the problem? How can I make it run faster?

Too many programs running on a computer simultaneously will slow down performance. If you're experiencing these problems, try closing other programs and/or restarting the computer to free up system resources.

Why doesn't the sound work?

Your sound card or speakers may not be correctly installed or configured, or your sound settings may have been changed. Please refer to the documentation from your computer maker on how to correct these errors.

How do I turn off the sound?

You can turn the volume of your speakers down or off as you wish. Follow the on-screen instructions for stories, or you can access your computer's sound function and select mute.

I am not connected to the internet. What am I missing?

Without Internet access, you cannot use the E-card Machine. E-Cards are not, however, necessary for optimum use of the CD-ROM.

Are there other CD-ROMS in the series?

Yes, we are excited that Libby Hathorn is also producing *Coolstop* (sport and healthy lifestyle stories); and *Wonderstop* (tales of the imagination).

You can contact sales@weirdstop.com for more information and updates.

7. Printing

Can I print the stories?

Yes you can print the stories using the print feature of your browser. The full story texts are available in Adobe®Reader® format (pdf) at the THINKSMART section of each story. You can also print out the WORKWIZ activities for each story accessible from the Teachers' Lounge page.

How do I print the pages that appear on the screen?

Use your browser's print function to print any page that appears on the screen.

How do I print the Weirdstop Certificates?

To print the Weirdstop Certificates, click on the rosette that appears on the top of the Certificate page.