



## Physlets

Indicates a research-demonstrated benefit

### Overview

Small, flexible, educational physics applets that use simple graphics to convey only salient features of physical phenomena; modifiable and adaptable.



#### Type of Method

Computer simulations



#### Level

**Designed for:** Intro College Calculus-based , Intro College Algebra-based , Upper-level Undergraduate , Intro College Conceptual, Intermediate  
**Can be adapted for:** Teacher Prep Course, High School



#### Setting

**Designed for:** Lecture - Small (<30 students) , Lab, Homework, Studio  
**Can be adapted for:** Lecture - Large (30+ students)



#### Coverage

Few topics with great depth, Many topics with less depth



#### Topics

Mechanics, Electricity / Magnetism, Waves / Optics, Thermal / Statistical, Modern / Quantum



#### Instructor Effort

Medium



#### Resource Needs

Projector, Computers for students



#### Skills

**Designed for:** Conceptual understanding , Problem-solving skills , Using multiple representations  
**Can be adapted for:** Lab skills, Designing experiments



#### Research Validation

**Based on research into:** theories of how students learn , student ideas about specific topics   
**Demonstrated to improve:** conceptual understanding



#### Compatible Methods

[Peer Instruction](#), [PhET](#), [UW Tutorials](#), [JiTT](#), [Ranking Tasks](#), [ILDs](#), [CGPS](#), [Context-Rich Problems](#), [RealTime Physics](#), [Workshop Physics](#), [TIPERs](#), [ABP Tutorials](#), [SCALE-UP](#), [Modeling](#), [OSP](#), [SDI Labs](#), [OST Tutorials](#), [ISLE](#), [Thinking Problems](#), [Workbook for Introductory Physics](#), [LA Program](#), [PET](#), [PSET](#), [LEPS](#), [CAE TPS](#), [Lecture-Tutorials](#), [Astro Ranking Tasks](#), [MBL](#), [New Model Course](#), [CPU](#), [SCL](#), [TEFA](#), [CU Modern](#), [CU E&M](#), [CU QM](#), [QuILTs](#), [IQP](#), [Thermal Tutorials](#), [Mechanics](#)

[Tutorials](#), [Energy Project](#), [SGSI](#), [Paradigms](#), [PUM](#), [EiP](#), [Tools for Scientific Thinking](#), [PI QM](#), [M&I](#), [Tutorials](#), [Clickers](#), [MOP](#), [Responsive Teaching](#)



**Similar  
Methods**

[PhET](#), [OSP](#), [CPU](#)



**Developer(s)**

Wolfgang Christian



**Website**

<https://www.compadre.org/physlets>