

## Working with photographs

Editing photographs can be fun and rewarding. However, it is worth learning how to zoom, resize and crop photographs before carrying out any of the projects. For young children it is advised that photographs are resized in advance.

### Temporarily resizing using the zoom tool

When you open a photograph file in Colour Magic it is unlikely that you will see the whole image on the screen. This is because when a photograph is taken straight from a digital camera it is quite large. The easiest way to view the whole image, is to use the zoom out tool:



You may have to press this a couple of times. Once zoomed out it is much easier to see what you are doing. Zooming out like this does not permanently reduce the size of the photograph and you will notice that things like stamps will appear much smaller. This may not be ideal, particularly if working with young children who are used to working on images that fit the screen exactly. I have found the best thing is to permanently reduce the size of the photograph to best fit the screen:

### Permanently reducing the size of the photograph


Most children's experience of Colour Magic will be from using the default page that comes up when Colour Magic is first opened. To find out what size this default page is create a new file in Colour Magic (File, New, Default Size from the main menu). A blank canvas should appear that fills the working area. Choose **File** followed by **File Information** from the main menu. The size reported will depend on your computer screen's resolution. Note down the width and height in pixels.

You now need to adjust your photograph size to closely match the default size (exact match would result in a stretched photograph).

Open your photograph. Choose **Image, Resize** from the main menu. Type in the height that you noted down, then click on the width box (this will force Colour Magic to update the width field). The width field should reduce to less than the width you noted down; if it doesn't, then type in the width and click on the height box. The height should now have reduced to less than that noted down. This sounds confusing, but it is simple really.

The image can now be saved ready for a child to work on it at a more familiar size.

### Cropping an area of a photograph

Sometimes you may wish to use just a small portion of the main photograph. This is a technique called cropping. Open your photograph. Zoom out until there are no scroll bars. Now select the area of the photograph that you wish to use (  tool). Choose **Edit** and **Crop Selection** from the main menu. You can now resize the cropped photograph to best fit the screen; save your work.