

# Figure Layers

## *Independent layers of figures*

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Curio Professional allows you to create multiple independent layers of figures on your idea spaces. For example, say you have a *Background* layer which is located under a *Foreground* layer. Curio will draw all the *Background* figures first in back-to-front order, then it will draw the *Foreground* figures in back-to-front order.

### The Active Layer

A key aspect of layers is that only one layer at a time can be active. The active layer receives all mouse clicks and user interactions, essentially ignoring the other layers. This means you can select, create, delete, rearrange, and modify figures only on the active layer, which safeguards your other layers from accidental changes.

Layers therefore provide an excellent way to organize and manage overlapping sets of independent figures so you can work on certain figures without interfering with other elements of the idea space.

### Accessing Layers

The Layers button on the far-right side of the inspector bar. It shows the current, active layer and will probably show “Layer 1” as that’s the default layer in every idea space. Clicking it reveals the available layers and allows you to perform layer operations.

### Working with Layers

Using the Layers menu you can click to switch to a different layer; insert or delete layers; double-click to rename a layer; drag-and-drop to change the front-to-back ordering of layers; lock or control the visibility of the layer; and restrict the visibility by hiding a layer when printing, exporting, or presenting.

### Master Templates

Idea spaces which inherit a master template will automatically contain the layers from that master. Those layers will appear in the Layers popover with the special master broadcast icon. Any changes made to those master layers, including figure changes or renaming/deleting a layer, will be reflected in those inherited layers automatically.

An inherited layer cannot be renamed or deleted, although you can still rearrange, hide, or change its visibility restrictions.

### Presentation Mode Context Menu

While presenting your idea spaces, you can right-click during the slideshow to access a special context menu. There you can switch to a different active layer, perhaps to select figures on that layer, or toggle the visibility of a layer. Choosing an already active layer will hide it, choosing one that isn't active but hidden will make it active and visible.

The visibility toggles only persist while showing that slide. Moving forward or back, or restarting the slideshow will restore visibility to their normal values.

For example, as a teacher you may have set up an *Answers* layer to be hidden by default during presentations using the restrictions specified above. Using the context menu you can temporarily make that layer visible when you're ready to reveal the answers to your class.

### Scribbles

Curio's scribble feature allows you to sketch with pens and brushes on top of your idea space content. These sketches occur on a single bitmap-backed "onion skin" canvas that overlaps *all* figure layers (there isn't a scribble canvas *per* figure layer as that would require significant amounts of memory).