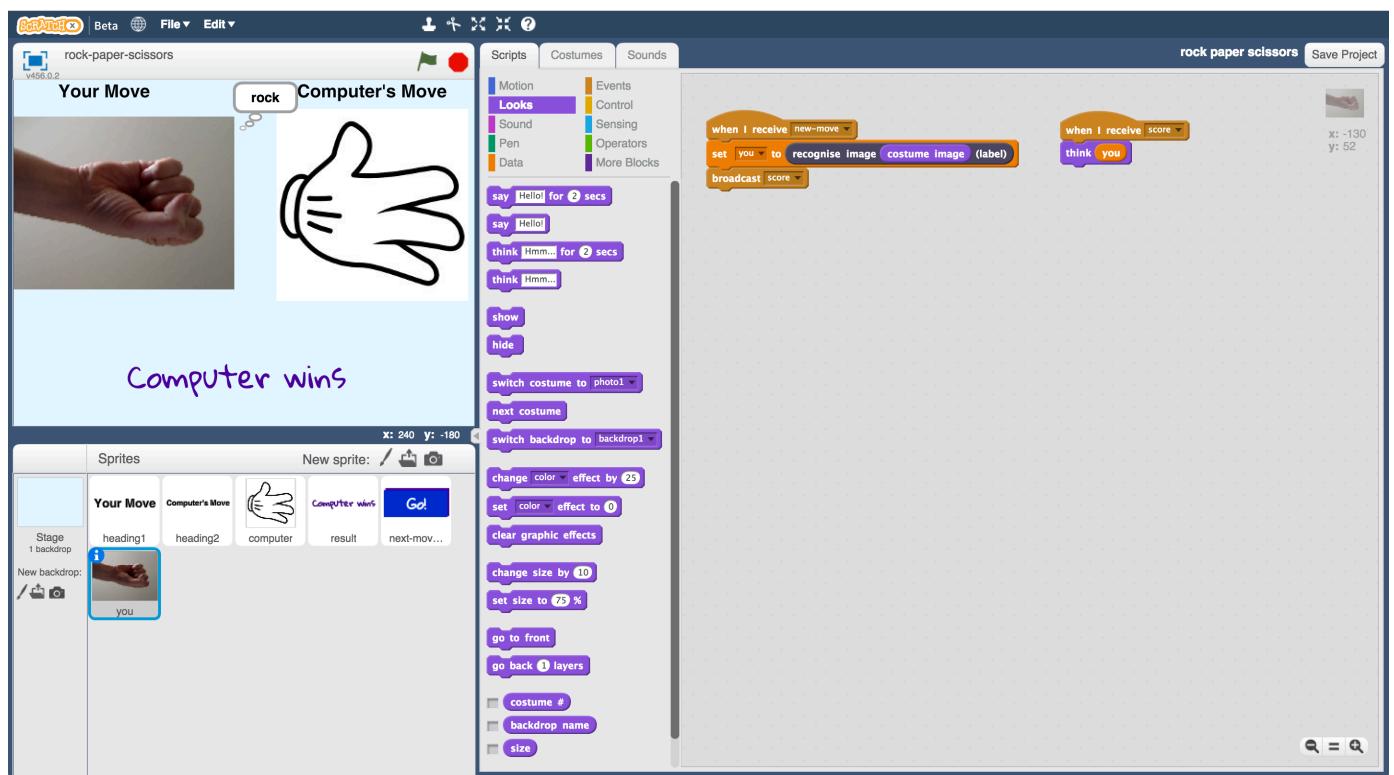


# Rock, paper, scissors

In this project you will make Rock, Paper, Scissors in Scratch.

To have your move, you'll take a photo of your hand.

But first, you'll need to train the computer to look at your photos and recognise the different hand shapes of rock, paper, and scissors.



**This activity will include you taking pictures of your hand and uploading them to the Internet. Photos of your hand will be accessible to anyone online.**  
If you're not happy with that, ask your teacher or group leader for a different activity.

---



You'll need a digital camera for this project. A computer webcam is easiest, but anything you can use to take photos of your hand is okay.

---

- 1.** You'll need the **rock-paper-scissors.sbx** starter file for this project.  
*If you haven't got this, ask your teacher or group leader.*
  
- 2.** Go to <https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/> in a web browser
  
- 3.** Click on “**Get started**”
  
- 4.** Click on “**Log In**” and type in your username and password  
*If you don't have a username, ask your teacher or group leader to create one for you.*  
*If you can't remember your username or password, ask your teacher or group leader to reset it for you.*
  
- 5.** Click on “**Projects**” on the top menu bar
  
- 6.** Click the “**+ Add a new project**” button.

**7.** Name your project “rock paper scissors” and set it to learn how to recognise “images”.

Click the “Create” button

The screenshot shows a web-based application for creating machine learning projects. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: ml-for-kids, Welcome, About, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, and Log Out. Below the navigation, a title says "Start a new machine learning project". A "Project Name" field contains "rock paper scissors". Under "Recognizing", the dropdown menu is set to "images". To the right of this, a tooltip-like box provides information about the choice: "What type of thing do you want to teach the computer to recognise? For words, sentences or paragraphs, choose "text". For photos, diagrams and pictures, choose "images". For sets of numbers or multiple choices, choose "numbers".". At the bottom right are two buttons: a blue "CREATE" button and a white "CANCEL" button.

**8.** You should see “rock paper scissors” in the projects list. Click on it.

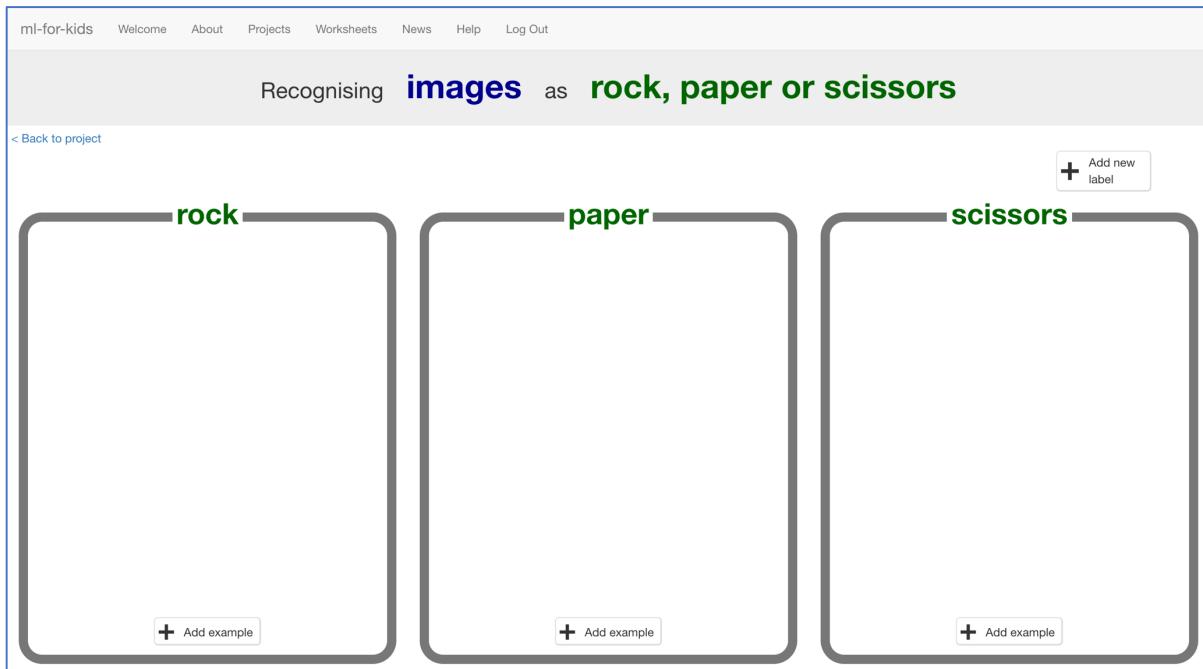
The screenshot shows a list of machine learning projects. The top navigation bar is identical to the previous screen. The main area is titled "Your machine learning projects". It lists one project: "rock paper scissors", which is described as "Recognising images". To the right of this project entry is a small "Delete" icon. In the top right corner of the main area, there's a button labeled "+ Add a new project".

**9.** Click on “Train”

The screenshot shows the details of the "rock paper scissors" project. The top navigation bar is present. The main content area has the project name "rock paper scissors" at the top. Below it are three cards: "Train", "Learn & Test", and "Scratch". The "Train" card has the sub-instruction "Collect examples of what you want the computer to recognise." and a "Train" button. The "Learn & Test" card has the sub-instruction "Use the examples to train the computer to recognise images." and a "Learn & Test" button. The "Scratch" card has the sub-instruction "Use the machine learning model you've trained to make a game in Scratch." and a "Scratch" button.

**10.** Click the “+ Add new label” button and create a bucket called “rock”.

Do this again to create buckets for “paper” and “scissors”.



---

We need to collect example of photos of your hand in “rock”, “paper” and “scissors” shapes.

This means taking photos of your hand, and uploading them to a photo sharing site on the Internet.

The next few steps will explain how to do this using **your computer webcam** and the website **imagebin.ca**. But any digital camera and any photo sharing website would work just as well.

---

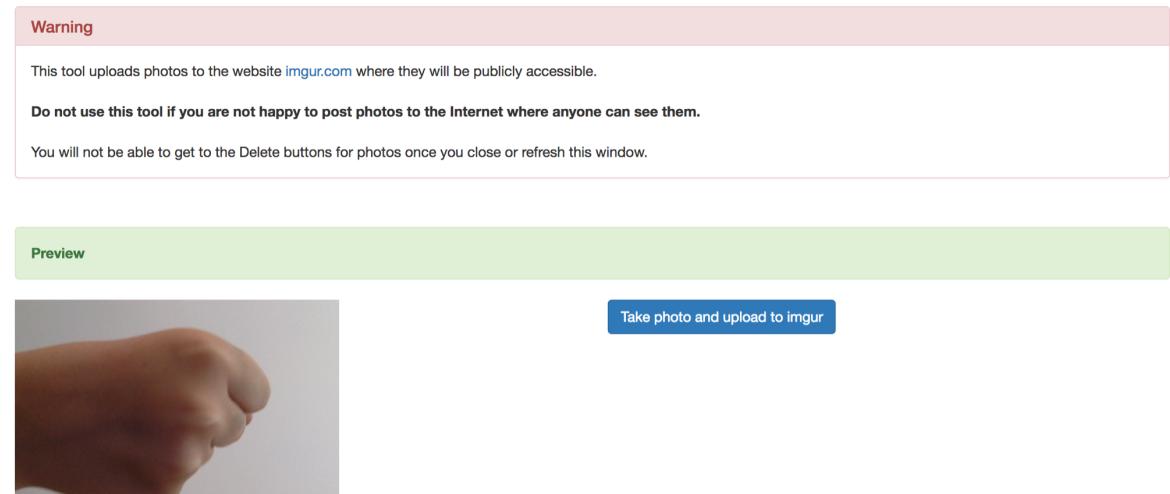
Skip to step 16 if you use a different site to upload your photos to.

---

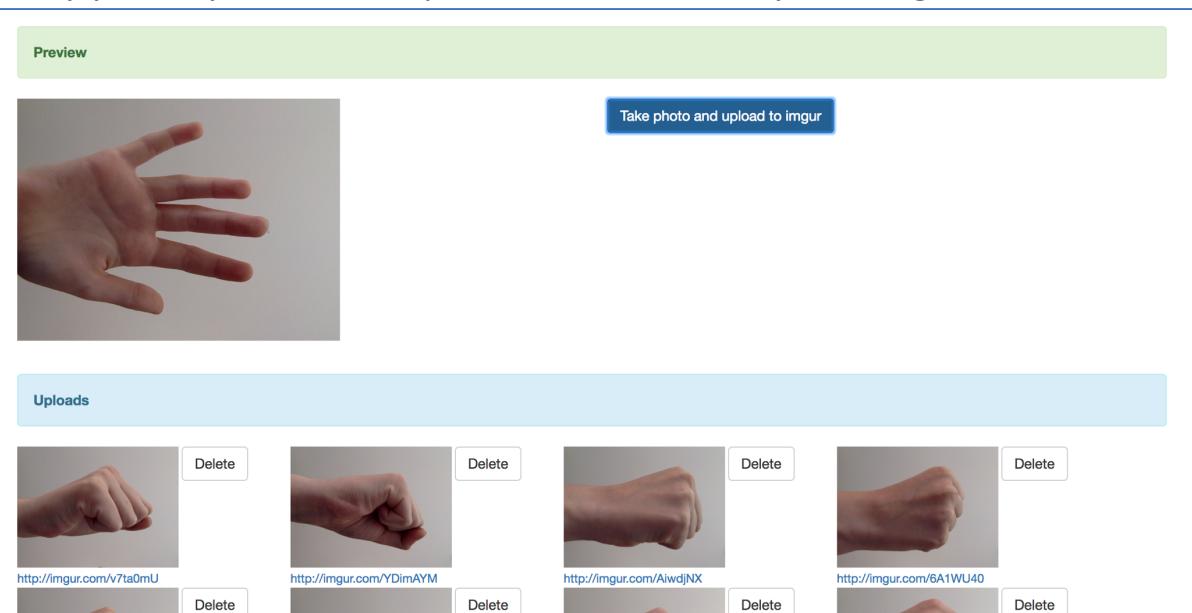
**11.** Open a new browser window or tab, and go to  
<https://dalelane.github.io/webcam-to-imagebin/>

**12.** The Preview window shows the current view from your webcam.  
*You will need to click “Approve” or “Allow” if your web browser asks permission to use your webcam.*

### Upload webcam photos to imgur

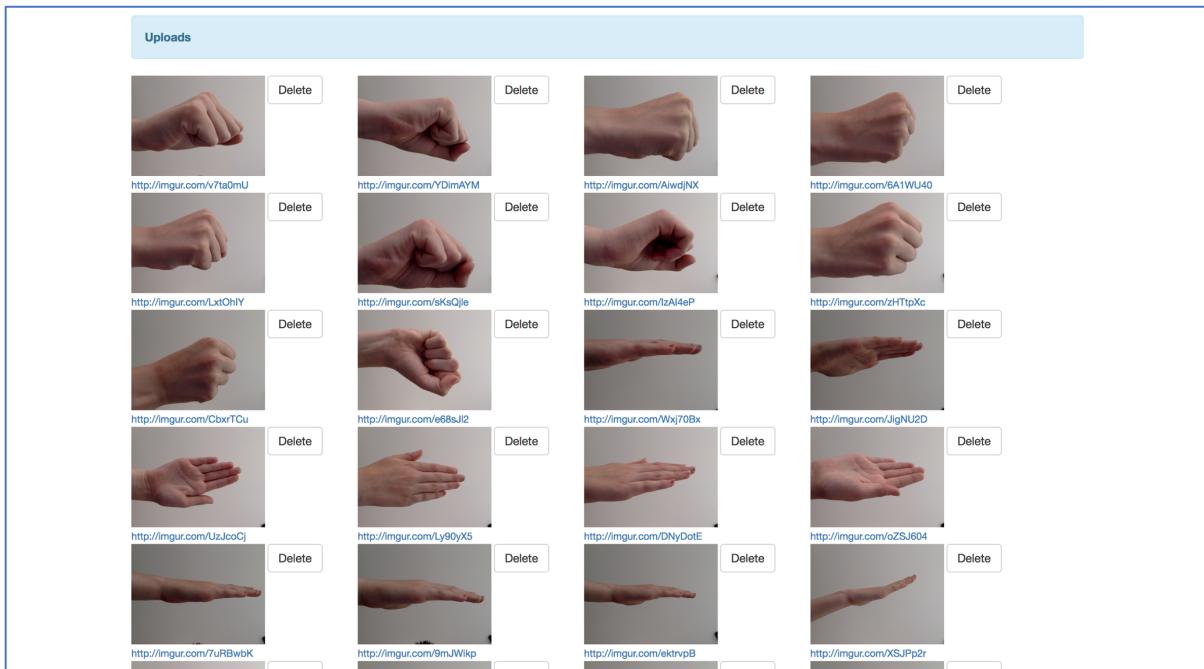


**13.** Click the “Take photo and upload to imagebin” button.  
Every photo you take is uploaded immediately to imagebin.ca.



**14.** Take **10** photos of your hand in a “rock” shape (fist).  
Take **10** photos of your hand in a “paper” shape (flat hand).  
Take **10** photos of your hand in a “scissors” shape (two fingers).

*Try to get a variety of positions and angles.  
The more variation the computer has to learn from, the better.*



**15.** You need to arrange your windows so both web browser windows (the machine learning training buckets and the photos you've taken) are next to each other.

A screenshot of a web-based machine learning interface. On the left, there's a classification interface with three large boxes labeled "rock", "paper", and "scissors". Each box has a "Add new label" button at the top right and an "Add example" button at the bottom. On the right, there's a "Take photo and upload to imgur" button and a "Uploads" section displaying the same 16 hand images as the previous grid, each with a "Delete" button.

**16.** Drag the photos from the photo site and drop them in the correct bucket in the machine learning tool.

The screenshot shows a web-based machine learning tool for identifying hand gestures. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: ml-for-kids, Welcome, About, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, and Log Out. Below the navigation, the title "Recognising **images** as **rock, paper or scissors**" is displayed. There are three main sections, each containing a grid of small images of hands in different poses:

- rock**: Contains 10 images of hands in a fist or closed-palm position.
- paper**: Contains 10 images of hands with fingers spread wide.
- scissors**: Contains 10 images of hands with fingers forming a 'V' shape or a scissor-like gesture.

Each section has a "Add example" button at the bottom right. In the top right corner of the page, there's a "Add new label" button with a plus sign.

**17.** Click the “< Back to project” link.  
Click the “Learn & Test” button.

**18.** Click the “Train new machine learning model” button.

The screenshot shows the "Machine learning models" page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: ml-for-kids, Welcome, About, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, and Log Out. Below the navigation, the title "Machine learning models" is displayed. There are two main sections on the page:

- What have you done?**

You've collected examples of images for a computer to use to recognise when images is rock, paper or scissors.

You've collected:

  - 10 examples of paper,
  - 10 examples of rock,
  - 10 examples of scissors
- What's next?**

Ready to start the computer's training?

Click the button below to start training a machine learning model using the examples you've collected so far.

(Or go back to the Train page if you want to collect some more examples first.)

At the bottom left, there's a box labeled "Info from training computer:" which is currently empty. At the very bottom center, there's a "Train new machine learning model" button.

- 19.** Wait for the training to complete. This might take a few minutes.  
*While waiting, try to complete the machine-learning multi-choice quiz at the bottom of the page.*

## What have you done so far?

You've started to train a computer to recognise pictures as being rock, paper or scissors. You are doing it by collecting example photos. These examples are being used to train a machine learning "model".

This is called "supervised learning" because of the way you are supervising the computer's training.

The computer will learn from patterns in the colours and shapes from each of the photos you've given it. These will be used to be able to recognise new photos.

- 20.** Click the "**< Back to project**" link, then click the "**Scratch**" button.  
*This page has instructions on how to use the new blocks in Scratch from your project.*  
*Keep the page open if you need to check back on how to use them.*

## Tips

### More examples!

The more examples you give it, the better the computer should get at recognising whether a photo of your hand is rock, paper or scissors.

### Try and be even

Try and come up with roughly the same number of examples for each shape.

If you have a lot of examples for one type, and not the other, the computer might learn that type is more likely, so you'll affect the way that it learns to recognise photos.

### Mix things up with your examples

Try to come up with lots of different types of examples.

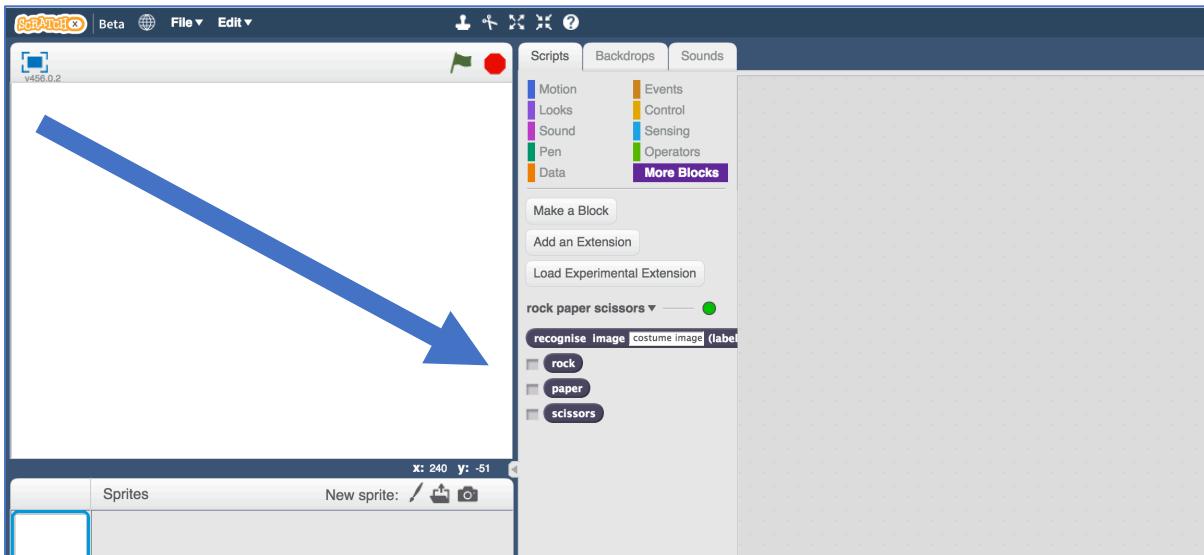
For example, you could include examples of your hand coming from the left side of the photo as well as examples of your hand coming from the right side.

### If you'd rather use imgur.com than imagebin...

use <https://dalelane.github.io/webcam-to-imgur> instead

**21.** Click the “Open in Scratch” button at the bottom to launch the Scratch editor.

*You should see four new blocks in the “More blocks” section from your “rock paper scissors” project.*

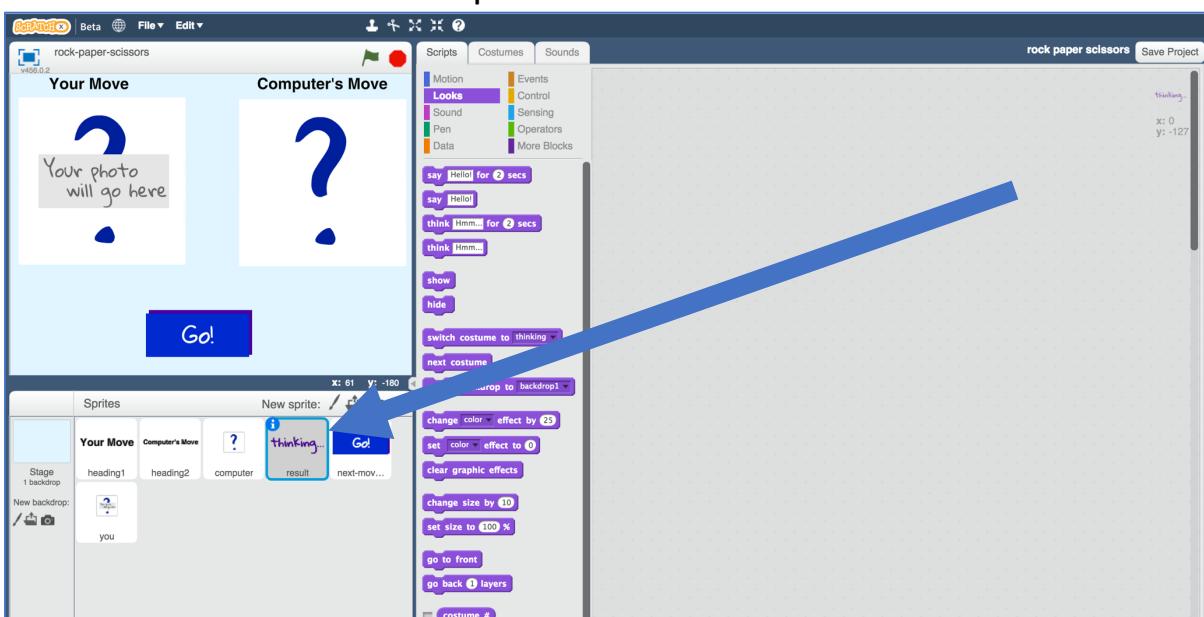


**22.** Open the “rock-paper-scissors.sbx” project file.

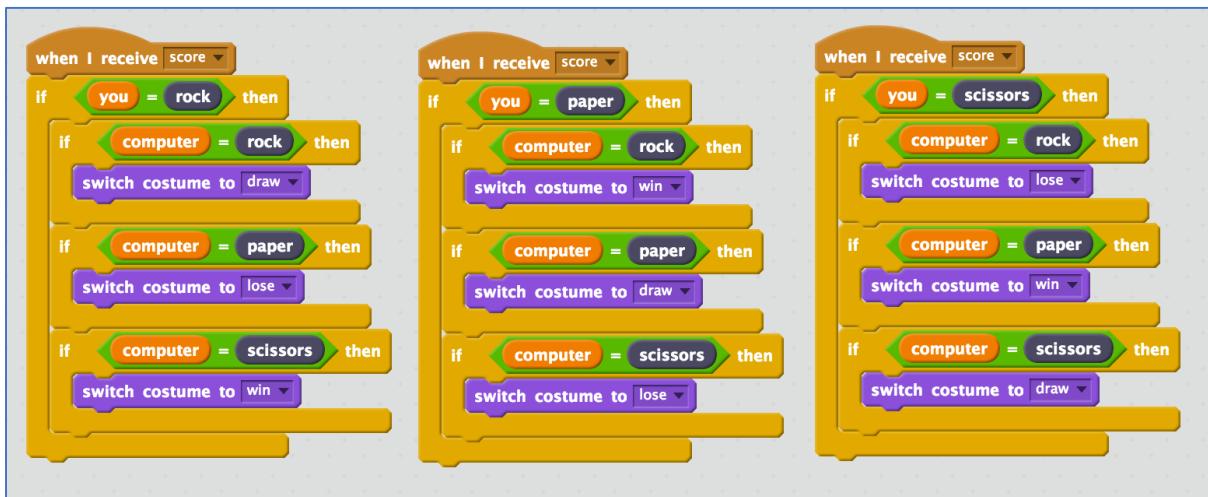
Click **File -> Load Project**

*Click **OK** when it asks to replace the contents of the current project.*

**23.** Click on the “result” sprite



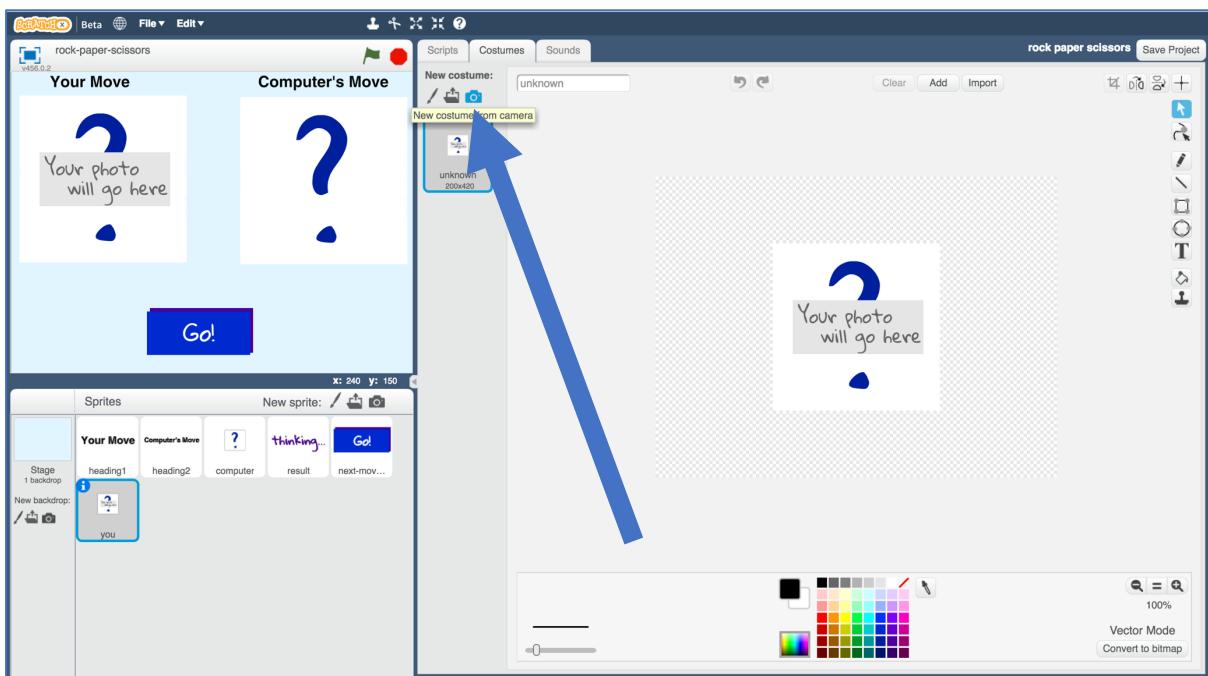
**24.** Add the following script blocks with the rules for the game to the “result” sprite.



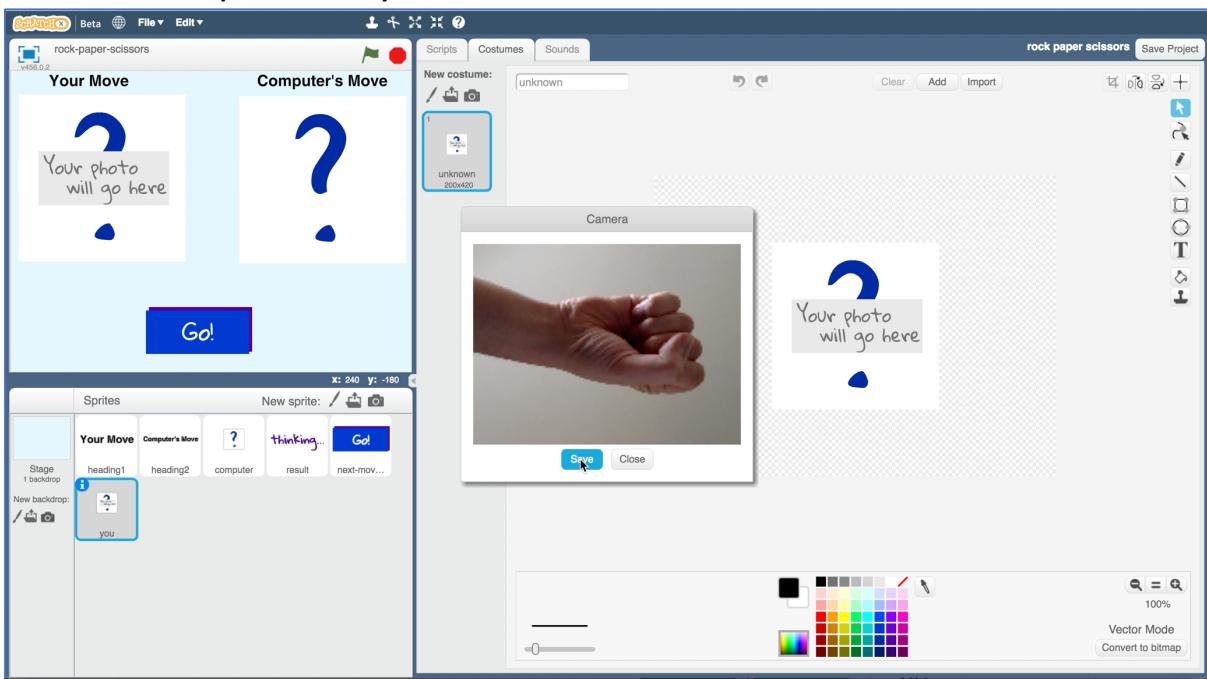
**25.** Click on the “you” sprite.

**26.** Click on the “costumes” tab.

**27.** Click the “New costume from camera” button  
*It's the camera icon shown below.*



## 28. Take a photo of your hand



## 29. Click on the “Scripts” tab

## 30. Add the following script blocks to the “you” sprite to let the computer recognise your move



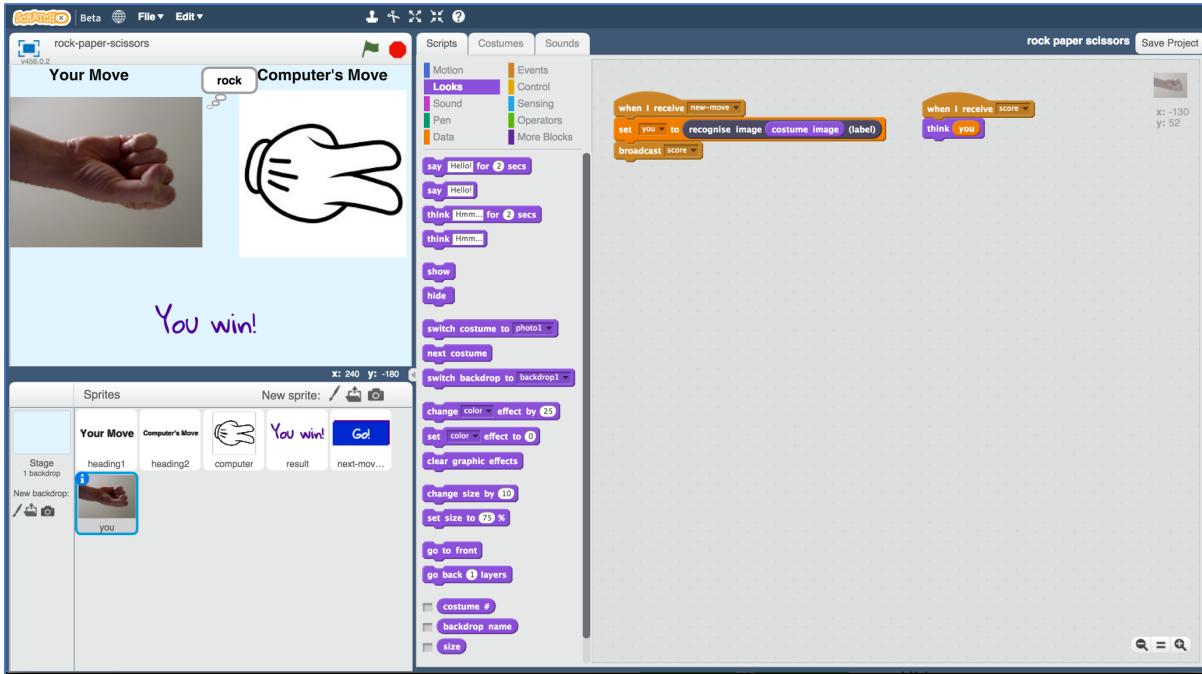
## 31. Save your project.

Click **File -> Save project**

## 32. Test your project

Click the **Green Flag**, then click the “Go!” button in the game.

*The computer will choose a random picture for its side. It will try to recognise the shape of your hand, and then use the rules you entered to work out who won.*



## 33. If the computer is not very good at recognising your hand shapes, go back to step 16, and add more examples for the computer to learn from. You'll need to repeat step 18 and train a new machine learning model after you've added more examples.

### What have you done?

You've made a simple rock-paper-scissors game in Scratch.

The game uses a webcam to take pictures of your hand, and uses machine learning to understand the meaning of the photo.

This is “image recognition” – teaching a computer to recognise images.