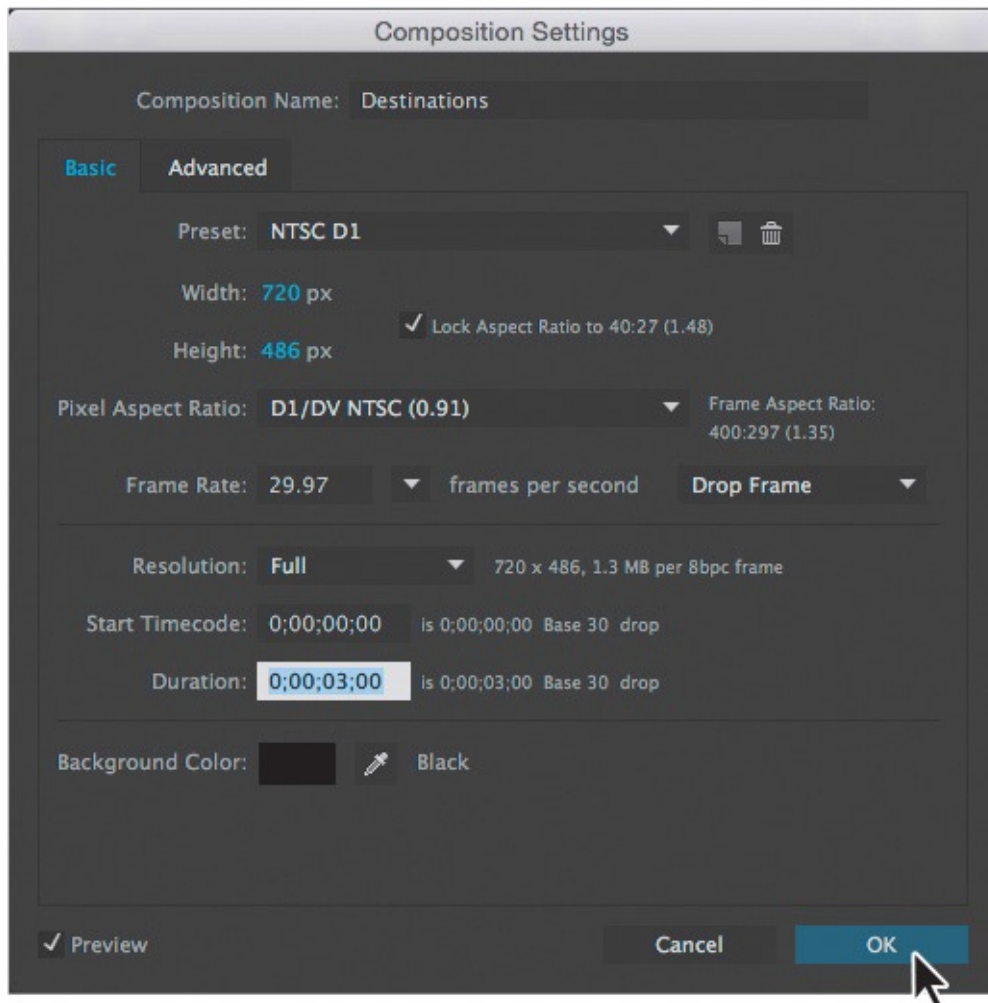


- Press Ctrl+N (Windows) or Command+N (Mac OS).

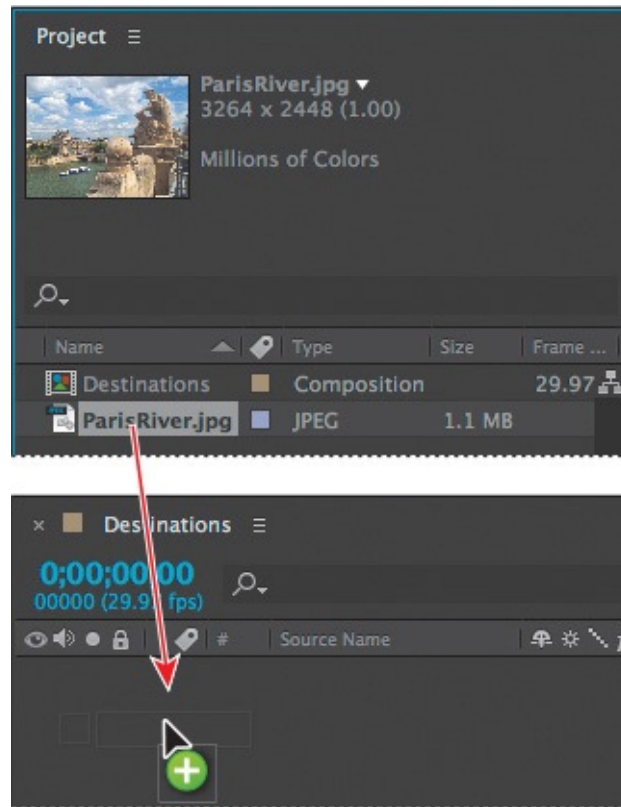
2. In the Composition Settings dialog box, do the following:

- Name the composition **Destinations**.
- Choose NTSC D1 from the Preset pop-up menu. NTSC D1 is the resolution for standard-definition television in the United States and some other countries. This preset automatically sets the width, height, pixel aspect ratio, and frame rate for the composition to NTSC standards.
- In the Duration field, type **300** to specify 3 seconds.
- Click OK.



After Effects displays an empty composition named Destinations in the Composition panel and in the Timeline panel. Now, you'll add the background.

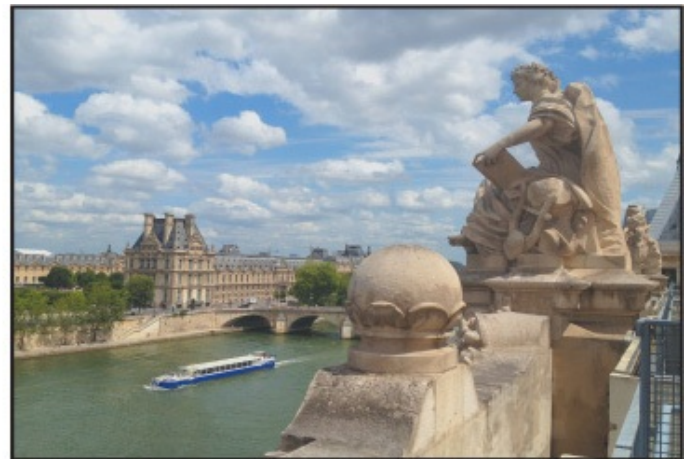
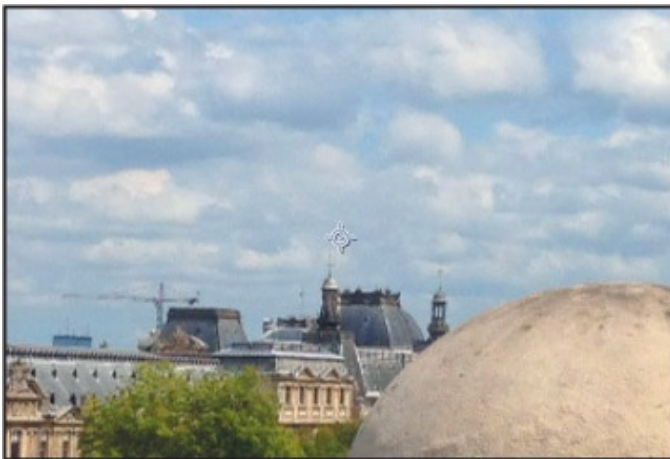
- 3.** Drag the ParisRiver.jpg footage item from the Project panel to the Timeline panel to add it to the Destinations composition.



Tip

The keyboard shortcut for fitting a layer to a composition is Ctrl+Alt+F (Windows) or Command+Option+F (Mac OS).

4. With the ParisRiver layer selected in the Timeline panel, choose Layer > Transform > Fit To Comp to scale the background image to the dimensions of the composition.

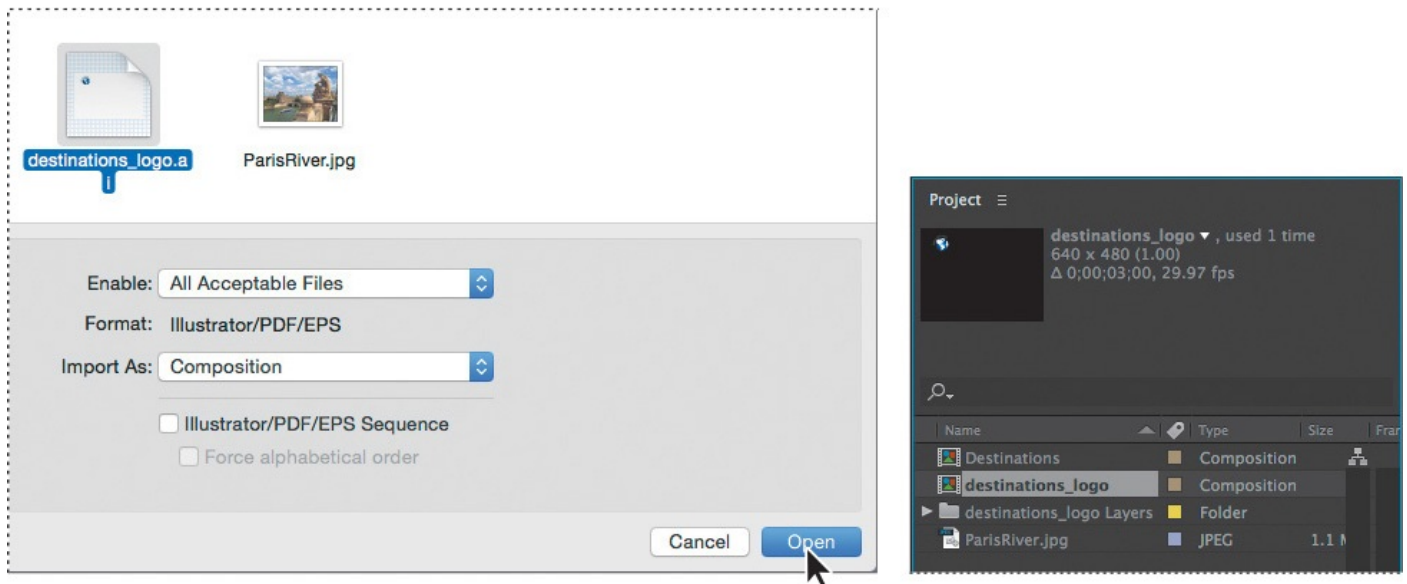


Importing the foreground element

Your background is now in place. The foreground object you'll use is a layered vector graphic that was created in Illustrator.

1. Choose File > Import > File.
2. In the Import File dialog box, select the destinations_logo.ai file in the Lessons/Lesson02/Assets folder. (The file appears as destinations_logo if file extensions are hidden.)

3. Select Composition from the Import As menu, and then click Import or Open.



The Illustrator file is added to the Project panel as a composition named destinations_logo. A folder named destinations_logo Layers also appears. This folder contains the three individual layers of the Illustrator file. Click the triangle to open the folder and see its contents if you like.

4. Drag the destinations_logo composition file from the Project panel into the Timeline panel above the ParisRiver layer.

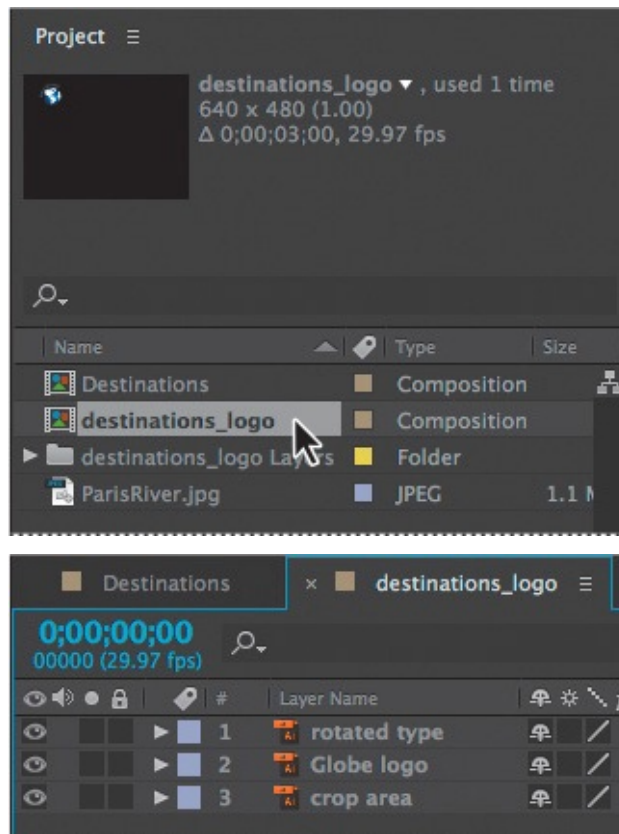


You should now see both the background image and the logo in the Composition panel and in the Timeline panel.

Working with imported Illustrator layers

The destinations_logo graphic was created in Illustrator; your job in After Effects is to add text and animate it. To work with the layers of the Illustrator file independently of the background footage, you'll open the destinations_logo composition in its own Timeline and Composition panels.

1. Double-click the destinations_logo composition in the Project panel. The composition opens in its own Timeline and Composition panels.



2. Select the Horizontal Type tool (T) in the Tools panel, and click in the Composition panel.
3. Type **TRAVEL EUROPE**, all capital letters, and then select all of the text you just entered.

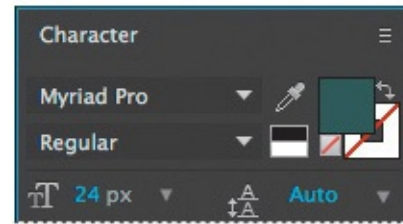


4. In the Character panel, select a sans serif typeface such as Myriad Pro, and change the font size to **24** pixels. Click the eyedropper in the Character panel, and click the rotated “Destinations” text on the logo to select the green color. After Effects applies it to the text you typed. Leave all other options in the Character panel at their defaults.

● Note

If the Character panel isn’t open, choose Window > Character. You may need to expand the width of the panel to see the eyedropper.

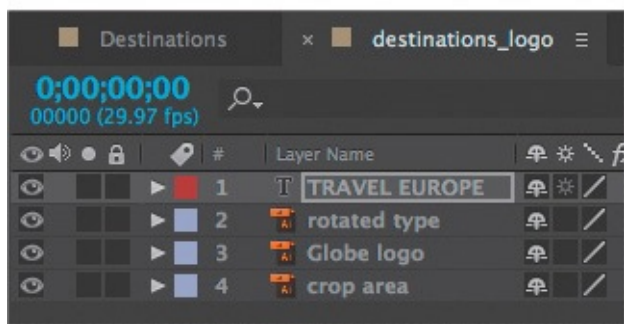
You’ll learn more about working with text in [Lesson 3](#), “[Animating Text](#).”



Tip

Choose View > Show Grid to make the nonprinting grid visible to help you position objects. Choose View > Show Grid again to hide the grid later.

5. Select the Selection tool (⌘), and then drag the text in the Composition panel to position it as it appears in the following figure. Notice that when you switch to the Selection tool, the generic Text 1 layer name in the Timeline panel changes to TRAVEL EUROPE, the text you typed.



Applying effects to a layer

Now you will return to the main composition, Destinations, and apply an effect to the destinations_logo layer. This will apply the effect to all of the layers nested in the destinations_logo composition.

1. Click the Destinations tab in the Timeline panel, and then select the destinations_logo layer.

The effect you create next will be applied only to the logo elements, not to the background image of the river.

2. Choose Effect > Perspective > Drop Shadow.

