

Digital Kids Club

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Just a little color

Add emphasis to a part of a photograph and create a dramatic image. Take the colors out of a photograph, making it a black and white image, yet leaving parts of the image still colored.

Grade level:

3rd and up

Subjects:

Fine arts, Technology

Skills addressed:

Working with layers, adjusting saturation, selecting tool

Materials:

- Computer
- Possibly scanner or digital camera

Time commitment:

1–3 hours

Products used:

- Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 3.0

Objective

- Understanding how to create layers
- Ability to crop accurately
- Understanding how to adjust color saturation and color variations

Instructions

[Discovery Education](#)
[unitedstreaming](#)

Multimedia library of educational videos and images

[Blue Pixel](#)

Professional advice from the photography experts

Finding an image to use

The hardest part of this lesson is to find just the right image to use. Look for a picture that has something in it that would look cool if it still in color, while the rest of the image is in Black and White, or better yet, Sepia (bronze tone).

It could be an image with a person in it or just a scenic maybe a field with some fallen leaves in it.

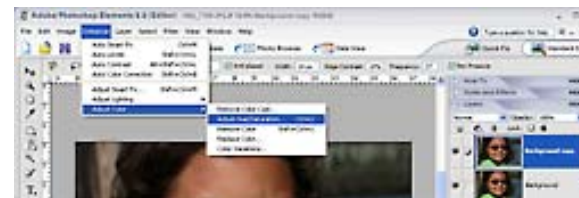
Open the image

Open the image that you want to work with in the Standard Editor mode.

Once the image is open, you will need to duplicate the background, to create a new layer. There are three ways to do this. CHOOSE ONE of the following ways:

1. Click on Layer, Duplicate Layer
2. Or Right Click on the image and choose Duplicate Layer
3. Or Drag the background layer to the Duplicate Layer tool just above the layer window.

While in the new layer, click on Enhance, Adjust Color, Adjust hue/saturation



Drag the saturation bar all the way to the left. This will create a Black and white image layer.

Use one of the lasso tools to select the area that you would like to keep colored.

Note: if there are several items such as flowers, you can work in the background layer, using the magic wand to select the items by color but once you have the items selected be sure to go back to the black and white layer (while keeping the items still selected)

Now click on Edit, Cut.

The selected Items should now be colored as the original image was colored.

To make the image more dramatic try changing the color of the black and white image to a sepia (bronze tone) image.

Click on Enhance, Adjust Color, Color variations.



Click on Decrease Blue once and Increase Red once. This will give you a warm bronze tone.



Other examples

Try adjusting the saturation of the colored layer to the left just a little



Discussion questions

Are the students working with a photograph that has enough detail and is clear (not blurry) and has something that can be kept colored?

Make sure the class is moving along at a decent speed to complete this project quickly.

Evaluation

- 4.0 work — The image has some color but is mostly black and white or sepia. The layers are lined up properly. The colored items are cropped well. The project was complete in the time allowed.
- 3.0 work — (two or more of these) The colored areas have minor cropping errors. The layers are lined up, but not exact. The image choice was too difficult for the project to work well. The project took longer to complete than the original time allowed, but it is complete.
- 2.0 work — (two or more of these) There are noticeable errors in the cropping. The layers are not lined up. The background was not changed correctly. The project still needs a little bit of work. The student agrees that they could have done better.
- 1.0 work — (two or more of these) The colored areas are cropped too much or not enough, it is very obvious where the cropping occurred. Work is far from complete. The student agrees that they could have done better.

Vocabulary

Crop: To cut the image to a different size.

Sepia: A brownish gray to dark olive brown color. A print or photograph of a brown color resembling sepia.

Saturation: Degree of differences of color and brightness of the colors.

Credits

This lesson was created by educator and Technology Director [Meredith Blache](#).

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