



# Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 2.0

## Lessons for Educators

*Beautiful America Project*

Adobe Education



Adobe

Tools for the New Work™

# Beautiful America Project

This gallery of photographs will teach basic image correction and Adobe® Photoshop® Elements custom shapes and layer styles for framing pictures. The example uses pictures of scenery in the United States. The gallery concept can easily be adapted to showcase pictures on any topic, including vacation or field trip photos.

## Materials:

Legal-size paper for your color printer, and some photos of scenery that you have scanned in to your computer. Scan at 150 pixels per inch for printing or at 72 pixels per inch if displaying only on screen.

## Research:

For information on taking great vacation photos of beautiful scenery, visit:  
[http://www.kodak.com/US/en/corp/magazine/tips/2001\\_05/](http://www.kodak.com/US/en/corp/magazine/tips/2001_05/)



### Before Photoshop Elements:

- Photos for the Gallery: Download digital images from your camera. Do not change the resolution, height, and width settings. These will be adjusted in Photoshop Elements. You also can scan a series of photos of any related topic. The example uses images of the United States. Both horizontal and vertical images can be used.
- File Management: Create a new work folder on your desktop. Name this folder with a unique name that you will recognize. Always keep all image files for a single project in their own unique folder.
- Scanning: If you scan images, be sure to save them inside your work folder. If this is a group project be sure to save the files with recognizable names, such as "Scott's Dragon." This will make it easier to find your files as the project progresses.

Refer to the illustration of the palette well (Figure 1) and the toolbox (Figure 2) for steps requiring the use of any of the Photoshop Elements tools.

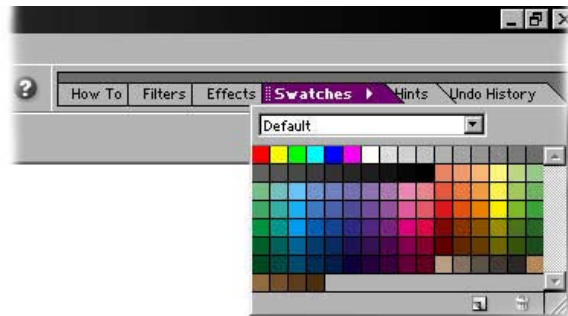


Figure 1

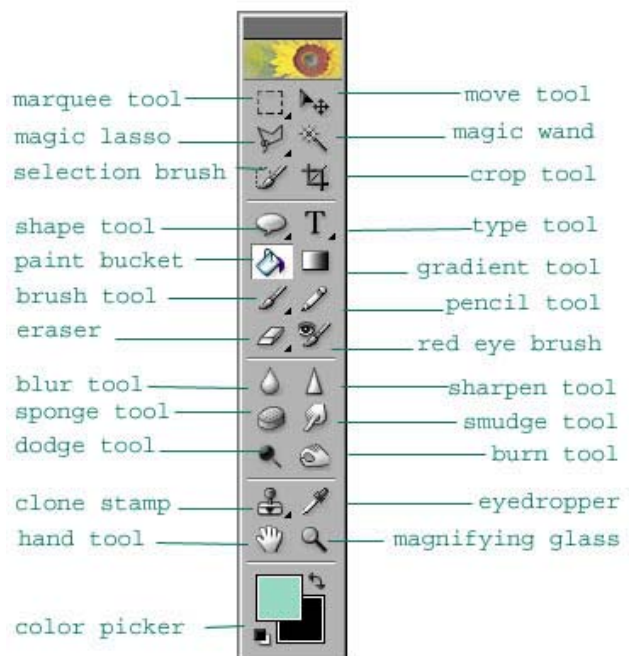


Figure 2

### In Photoshop Elements:

To undo any steps in this project, from the menu bar, choose Edit > Undo.

Create a new Photoshop Elements master file:  
From the menu bar, choose File > New. In a new file window set the new file size to Width 14 inches, Height 10 inches, Resolution 150 Pixels/Inch (a good pixel range for printing on a digital printer), and RGB Mode.

1. Save the file. To do this: choose File > Save As and browse the dialog box for your folder. Open the folder, name your master file a short, easy-to-remember name, and choose Save. Be sure you save your work inside the new work folder.
2. In the palette well, click the Swatches tab. Choose the color you want to use for a gallery wall. From the toolbox, choose the paint bucket tool, and click inside the image area of the master gallery file to fill it with the selected color (Figure 3).
3. Importing and scaling the photos.

Open all the scanned or digital photos of scenery. Drag the photos onto the "wall" in the gallery file (Figure 4). From the toolbox, select the move tool. Position the pointer over one of the corner selection handles. Holding down the Shift key on your keyboard, drag the handle to scale your images. Holding down the Shift key allows the image to be rescaled without changing the ratio of width to height. Leave enough space between images to allow for framing. Note that each new photo will appear on a new layer in the Layers palette.



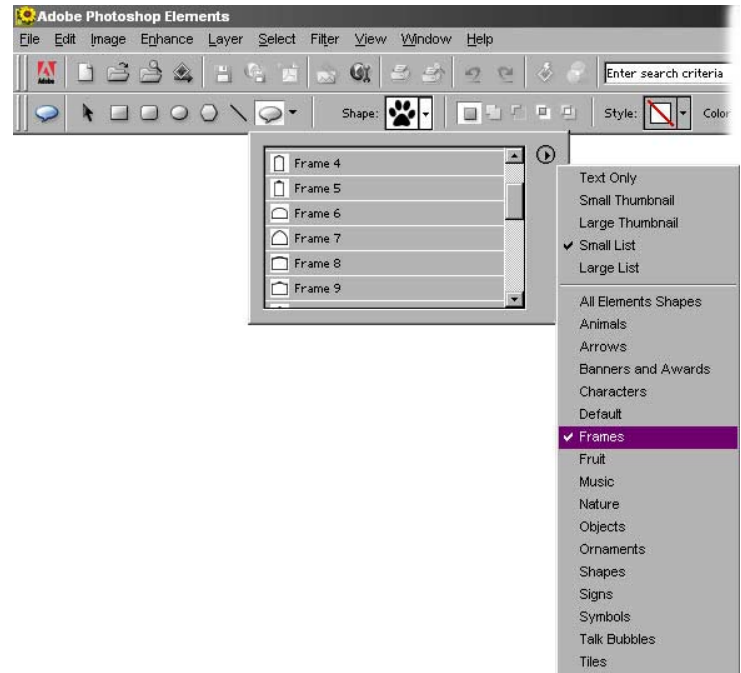
Figure 3



Figure 4

### 4. Selecting frames for the pictures.

From the toolbox, select the custom shapes tool. In the options bar, click the down arrow to the left of the shape selection area to open the Custom Tools menu. Click the down arrow to the right of the Shapes icon. Choose Frames from the menu. Review the variety of frames available. Select one you like by clicking on its icon in the list (Figure 5).



### 5. Selecting a frame.

In the options bar, change the color of the frame (Figure 6).

### 6. Positioning the frame shape around a photo.

Click on the frame style desired and then click the gallery. When the frame is in place, choose the move tool in the toolbox. Drag on the frame to position it around the photo (Figure 7).

Figure 5

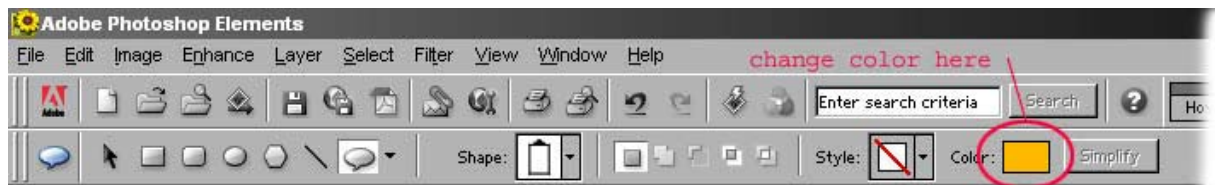


Figure 6

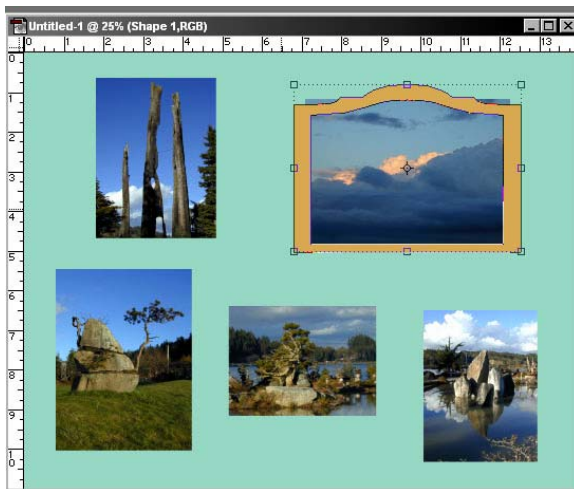


Figure 7



7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 to frame all the photos, using different frame shapes and colors. Note that each frame and photo will appear on a new layer in the Layers palette. When the frame is the proper size, click the Simplify button on the far right side of the options bar. Do not try to fit the image entirely inside the frame. Any areas of the photo that protrude beyond the frame will be removed later (Figure 8).
8. Cleaning up the photos.

From the toolbox, select the eraser tool. In the options bar select a workable brush size (start with 19 points). In the Layers palette, select the layer for one of the photos. Erase the parts of the picture that fall outside the frame. To get a closer view of a photo, choose the magnifying glass tool from the toolbox and click the image area where you are working. To return to a normal view, double-click the hand tool in the toolbox (Figure 9).

9. Repeat step 8 for all photos (Figure 10).

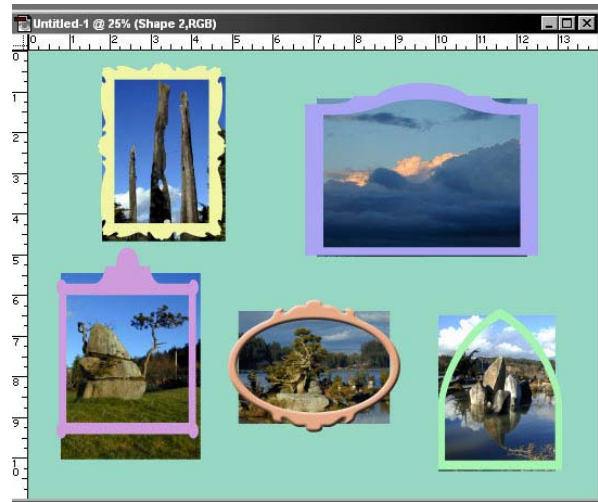


Figure 8

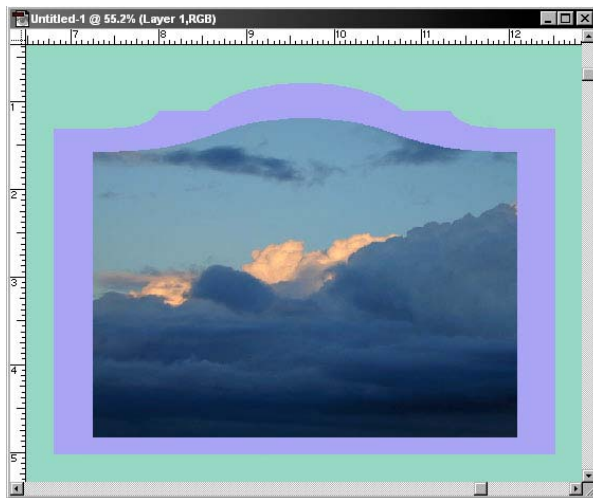


Figure 9

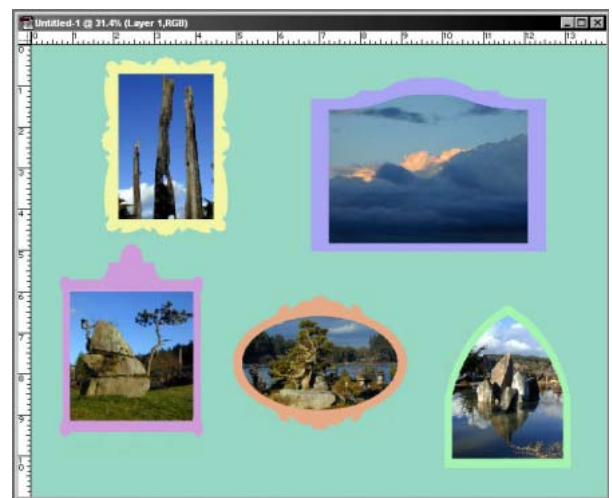


Figure 10

### 10. Adding depth to the frames.

In the Layers palette, select the Layer Styles tab and open the menu at the top left of the window. From the menu, choose Bevels (Figure 11a), and choose a style. To apply a bevel, select a frame layer in the Layers palette and double-click the bevel button. The example in Figure 11b uses the Simple Inner Bevel for all the frames.

### 11. Adding additional detail.

From the Layer Styles menu, select Drop Shadows. Select each frame layer and apply a drop shadow to it. In the example, the Low selection was used to cast a natural-looking shadow from the frame onto the wall (Figure 12).



Figure 11a

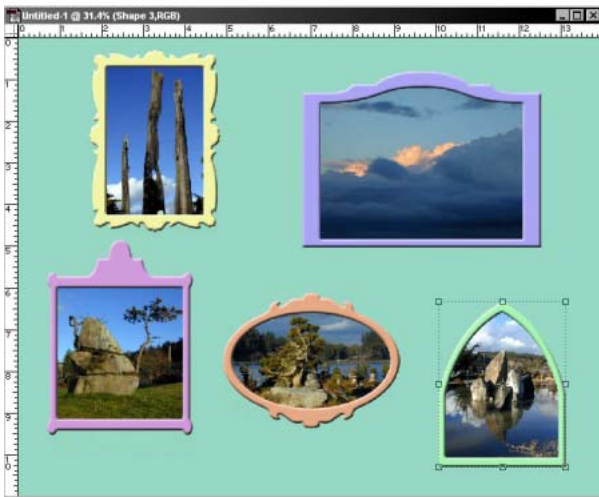


Figure 11b

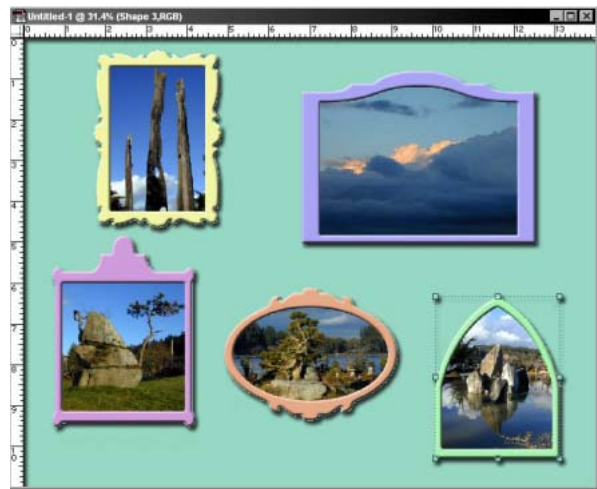


Figure 12

12. When all frames are completed, from the menu bar, choose Layer > Flatten Image to collapse all the separate layers into one. This will save memory as you complete the project (Figure 13).
13. Adding a personal touch.

From the toolbox choose the rectangular marquee tool. Drag a selection around a frame and its shadow. From the toolbox, select the move tool. Hold the pointer over a corner box handle until a double-headed, curved arrow appears. Move the corner box to slightly rotate the selection. A blank area may appear on the background of the gallery wall. This will be filled in, or patched, in the next step (Figure 14).

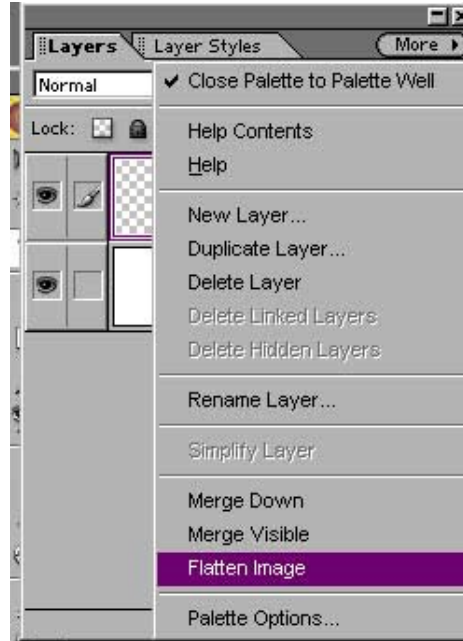


Figure 13



Figure 14



## 14. Patching the wall.

Choose **Select > Inverse** to invert the selection around the frame. From the toolbox, select the eyedropper tool. Click the wall color in the image. That color will appear in the color picker boxes at the bottom of the toolbox. From the toolbox, choose the airbrush tool and paint over the parts of your wall that need repair. The airbrush cannot paint outside a selection. By inverting the selection, the airbrush will not spill over onto the frame (Figure 15).

*Figure 15*

## 15. Visiting the gallery.

This gallery can be displayed on-screen or converted to a Web page. It can also be printed on oversize (tabloid size) paper if your printer accepts this paper size, or on smaller paper using a less than 100% size selection in the Page Setup.

## 16. Printing the gallery.

Choose **File > Page Setup**. Select **Landscape**. Select the correct paper size or less than 100% to print on smaller paper. Choose **File > Print**, print the image, and hang it for viewing.

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