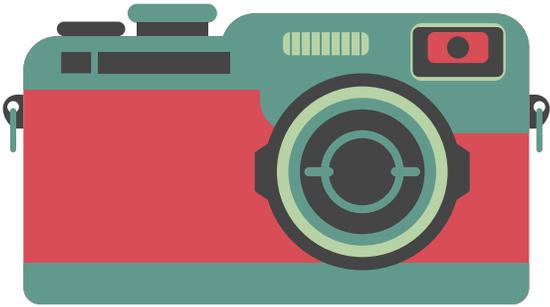


Photography Challenges



Push your creative limits while exploring photography by trying out some of these photography challenges! These activities are for all ages and all camera types.

Why challenge yourself through photography?

Lots of reasons! Sometimes we get stuck in creative ruts which take some outside inspiration to get out of. Or maybe we are looking for a way to become comfortable with a new art form! Challenges are also a fun way for us to push ourselves and learn what we are capable of creatively! How will you use these challenges?

Self Portrait

Take a photo you feel captures who you are. This could be a picture of you, a photo of a place you feel most like yourself, or a picture of a grouping of objects you feel describes you.

Same Place, New Photo

Choose a place you have easy access to. Visit it on 10 different occasions, preferably on different days, and take a photo of it each time you go. Compare and contrast the photos you took. How did things such as lighting, your mood, or perspective influence your photos?

Capture Motion

Capturing movement with a still photo sounds like a tricky thing, but there are a ton of ways you can do it! Try taking a photo of something moving outdoors. This could be a car driving by or people running around. You can also create motion to photograph. This could involve splashing some water or throwing something in the air and snapping a picture.

Find/Create Interesting Silhouettes

A silhouette is the dark shape and outline of something against a lighter background. Many people take silhouette pictures at sunset because it allows for a colorful background. Try capturing the shape of someone or something against a lighter or brighter background.

Black & White

When you take a photo in black and white, it's very important to consider form, shape, and contrast (like lights and darks and differences in texture). When you remove color from a photo, your eyes are drawn to different aspects. Try to find subjects to photograph that feature opposites, such as light colors and dark colors, smooth textures and rough textures, or natural shapes and rectangular shapes. Also consider taking a photo in color and editing it to be black and white later.

Macro

Macro means large scale. Choose a subject for your photo that is small in size. Take a photo very close to your object to make it appear larger than life. Try to bring out details in your subject that you might not notice normally with the naked eye.

Play with Symmetry

Symmetry relates to the arrangement, size, and balance of things in your photograph. If one half of your photograph looks very similar to the other, your photograph has symmetry. If your photo looks very unbalanced, you could say your photo has asymmetry.

Alter Printed Photographs

Sometimes the artistic process isn't finished when a photo is printed. Consider adding to physical photos by painting on them, stitching on them with thread, gluing things to them, cutting them up and rearranging them, and more!

Play with Camera Filters

Many cameras, including the ones on cell phones come loaded with a number of pre-set filters. Filters will deliver specific effects such as enhanced colors, more contrast, or warmer tones. Experiment photographing with one of these filters turned on. You can also try taking a photo without a filter and apply one later through a phone or computer app.

Take Out of Focus Pictures

Many cameras, including the ones on cell phones come loaded with a number of pre-set filters. Filters will deliver specific effects such as enhanced colors, more contrast, or warmer tones. Experiment photographing with one of these filters turned on. You can also try taking a photo without a filter and apply one later through a phone or computer app.

Patterns

Patterns occur when a shape, color, or texture is repeated over and over again. Patterns are everywhere! You can find them in trees and grasses, in crowds of peoples, in ripples of water, and in so many more places. Take a photo where your eye can't help but focus on the pattern.

Take Photos from Unexpected Perspectives

Take some pictures from new perspectives. Try laying on the ground, standing on a deck, or taking on the point of view of an animal or different person.

Frame within a Frame

Create a scene within a scene by incorporating features that create separate spaces within your photo. This method can add depth and interest to your photos. You could use a window or a door as your frame. If you took a photo through glasses, sunglasses, or binoculars, this could also count as your frame. Get creative and see if you can think of any other things you can use as frames!

Reflections

Capturing objects and their reflections creates symmetry and pattern within your photos. You can capture a reflection on any shiny surface such as a mirror, still water, or glass. You can use this technique to trick the eye and play with the idea of space. If you capture the reflection of trees on a still lake, your mind might wonder which way is up and which way is down.

Still Life

You can take a still life photo by arranging an assortment of everyday objects, choosing a good angle and lighting, and snapping a photo. To add interest to your photo, choose objects of different heights, widths, shapes, colors, and textures. Also be very mindful of the lighting you use and how the shadows fall in your scene. Shadows can add another dimension to photographs, but you don't want them to be too distracting.

Recreate Old Photos

Photos usually capture a single moment, but by placing a new photo next to an old, you can observe passage of time. Find a historical photo or an old photo of you, family, or friends. Try to recreate the scene or dress up like the person in the photo and see how much you can make your photo look like the original! You can also try replicating famous works of art this way! When showing off your work, try displaying your photo next to the photo/art you were imitating, so everyone knows your inspiration and can compare.