

HOAX PHOTOGRAPHY WITH PHOTOSHOP

I have collected images on Pinterest that you can use for examples: <https://www.pinterest.com/paintingteach/hoax-photography/> This project takes several class periods.

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***Hint:** Some people have an idea for a hoax already in their head. Some don't have a clear idea ahead of time. They just find a background image first and then they get an idea. Your photo can be convincingly fake reality or impossible reality, like an elephant in a bathing suit putting sunscreen on a zebra in a bathing suit.*

This is a project that requires a lot of experimentation. Remember that the History Window will help you go back several steps. Once you save, all steps disappear from History.

1. Search pexels.com for a good background photo. Drag that photo into your folder so you can find it later, then **Open it in Photoshop.**
2. Search for the images that you want to add to the background image. Drag those photos into your folder, or open in Photoshop. They will each show up in a different tab.
3. Open the background image. Go to **Image > Image Size** and change the resolution to 300 and the largest dimension (width or height) to no more than 9 inches.
4. Repeat step 4 with the other images. (Making these images a uniform resolution size will make the rest of the steps easier.)
5. Open up one of the photos you want to place into the background image. You will need to **remove the background** of that photo. There are several ways to do that, depending on the

characteristics of your photo. For example, if the photo has a fairly solid color background, you could use the magic wand tool to delete sections of the background. You can also use the background eraser tool around your subject and then beyond that erased outline, use a regular eraser to remove the rest of the background. Or, use the magnetic lasso tool to select your object, if your object is fairly simple. Remember you can adjust each tool with the menu bar that appears above your image when you choose the tool.

6. Once you have removed the background from your object, you can Control-Click (Command-Click on a mac) on the small image of that layer on your Layers Palette to **select** just the object. Choose **Edit>Copy** (Control-C or Command-C).
7. Open your background image and **Edit>Paste** (Control-V or Command-V) your image into the background. Notice that the object has its own layer. This allows you to move it and adjust it as needed.
8. You will most likely need to resize the object, make sure you have the correct layer selected. **Choose Edit > Transform > Scale** and a resizing box appears. Hold down the shift key to keep proportions, and drag the handles of the box until you have the size you want.
9. Drag the object to where you want it in the image. If you have to flip or rotate the object, choose **Edit > Transform > Flip or Rotate**. You may even have to go to **Edit > Transform > Skew** or distort it if necessary.
10. You will also probably need to choose **Adjustments** to your object layer. Levels is the best way to change the brightness and contrast. You might need to desaturate or saturate the colors, etc.
11. It is important to soften the edges of the object you pasted into the background so it doesn't look cut out. Use the **Blur Tool** at around 50%. You might need to zoom in to do that. Adjust the percentage to get the effect you want.

12. If you need to cover up something in the background image, use the **Clone Tool**. The clone tool is like a stamp. To pick up what you want to stamp, use the clone tool with the option key while you click the mouse on the area you want to use to cover another area. To stamp what you picked up, just click the mouse where you want it.
13. You can drag one layer above the other in the Layers Palette, when you need one object to be overlap another.
14. If necessary, add **shadows** with a brush tool with the opacity turned down (top tool bar) or the burn tool. Use the eyedropper to sample the right shadow color.
15. Take away shadows with either the clone tool, or a brush tool of a lighter, brighter color sampled from elsewhere on the object.