

Unit 3: Digital Photo Editing
7th Grade Digital Art
15 Classes

Rev. May 2026

Essential Questions
● How can photo editing change the meaning of an image? ● What tools do photographers and editors use to improve or alter images? ● How do lighting, color, and composition affect a photograph?

Enduring Understandings with Unit Goals
EU 1: Students will understand that photo editing tools can be used to enhance, correct, and creatively transform images. EU 2: Students will understand that visual choices in photography and editing affect how an image is interpreted.

Standards
ISTE.1.D. Understand the fundamental concepts of technology operations, demonstrate the ability to choose, use and troubleshoot current technologies, and transfer their knowledge to explore emerging technologies. ISTE.6.A. Choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication. ISTE. 6. B. Create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations. ISTE.6.C. Communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively by creating or using a variety of digital objects such as visualizations, models, or simulations. ISTE.6.D. Publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for their intended audiences. ISTE. 7.B. Use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts, or community members, to examine issues, and problems from multiple viewpoints. ISTE.7.C Contribute constructively to project teams, assuming various roles and responsibilities to work effectively toward a common goal.

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ISAAC Vision of the Graduate Competencies

Competency 1: Write effectively for a variety of purposes.

Competency 2: Speak to diverse audiences in an accountable manner.

Competency 3: Develop the behaviors needed to interact and contribute with others on a team.

Competency 4: Analyze and solve problems independently and collaboratively.

Competency 5: Be responsible, creative, and empathetic members of the community.

Unit Content Overview

Introduction to Photo Editing Tools

- Identify basic photo editing tools and features
- Demonstrate proper use of editing software
- Adjust simple image settings (brightness, contrast, color)
- Understand the purpose of photo editing

Image Adjustments (Color, Light, and Tone)

- Adjust brightness, contrast, and saturation
- Modify color balance and tone
- Improve clarity and visibility in images
- Use edits to change mood and atmosphere

Creative Photo Manipulation

- Experiment with creative editing techniques
- Combine multiple images into one artwork
- Apply filters and effects intentionally
- Develop original visual ideas using photo editing tools

Daily Learning Objectives with TWPS

Students will be able to...

- Students will identify basic photo editing tools and their functions.
 - *What makes a photo “good” before editing even begins?*
- Students will adjust brightness, contrast, and saturation in images.
 - *How can lighting change the mood of a photo?*
- Students will apply color correction techniques to improve images.
 - *Why does color affect how we feel about an image?*
- Students will crop and resize images for better composition.
 - *How does framing change what we focus on?*
- Students will combine basic edits to improve a photograph.

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- *What small changes make a big difference in a photo?*
- Students will use selection tools to isolate parts of an image.
 - *Why might you want to edit only part of a picture?*
- Students will modify specific areas of an image using editing tools.
 - *How does changing one part of an image affect the whole?*
- Students will experiment with filters and effects.
 - *When do filters improve a photo, and when do they distract?*
- Students will analyze examples of edited photographs.
 - *How does editing change meaning in an image?*
- Students will plan a creative photo editing concept.
 - *What story or idea can an edited photo tell?*
- Students will begin creating a creative photo edit.
 - *How do editors turn ideas into visual artwork?*
- Students will continue developing a photo manipulation project.
 - *How do choices in editing change the final result?*
- Students will refine and improve their photo edit based on feedback.
 - *How can feedback improve creative work?*
- Students will finalize their photo editing project.
 - *What makes a photo edit feel complete?*
- Students will present edited photo artworks and reflect on their process.
 - *How did editing tools help you express ideas creatively?*

Instructional Strategies/Differentiated Instruction

Instructional Strategies

- Teacher demonstrations of editing tools
- Step-by-step guided editing practice
- Visual before/after comparisons
- Project-based learning
- Peer critique and discussion
- Independent creative work
- Model examples of photo edits

Differentiated Instruction

- Guided step-by-step editing checklists
- Visual tutorials and demonstrations
- Flexible pacing for editing skills
- Peer support and collaboration
- Modified image complexity when needed
- Extension challenges for advanced students
- Choice in project themes and images

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Assessments
Formative Assessments ● Editing skill practice exercises ● Tool identification checks ● Before/after edits ● Class discussions ● Teacher observation ● Peer feedback ● Project checkpoints Summative Assessments ● Basic editing skills assignment ● Image adjustment practice project ● Creative photo manipulation project ● Final photo editing artwork series ● Reflection response

Unit Task
Digital Photography Portfolio: Students will create a series of edited photographs using digital photo editing tools. Students will apply technical skills such as color correction, cropping, selection, and filters while also exploring creative photo manipulation techniques. The final project will demonstrate both technical proficiency and creative expression through digital image editing. (EU 1, EU 2).

Unit Resources
● Photo editing software (Photoshop, Photopea, or similar) ● Chromebooks / computers ● Digital image files ● Editing tool demonstrations ● Before/after examples ● Tutorial videos ● Rubrics ● Guided practice files ● Sample edited images ● Practice image sets ● Editing checklists ● Project planning sheets

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- Peer feedback forms
- Visual reference examples