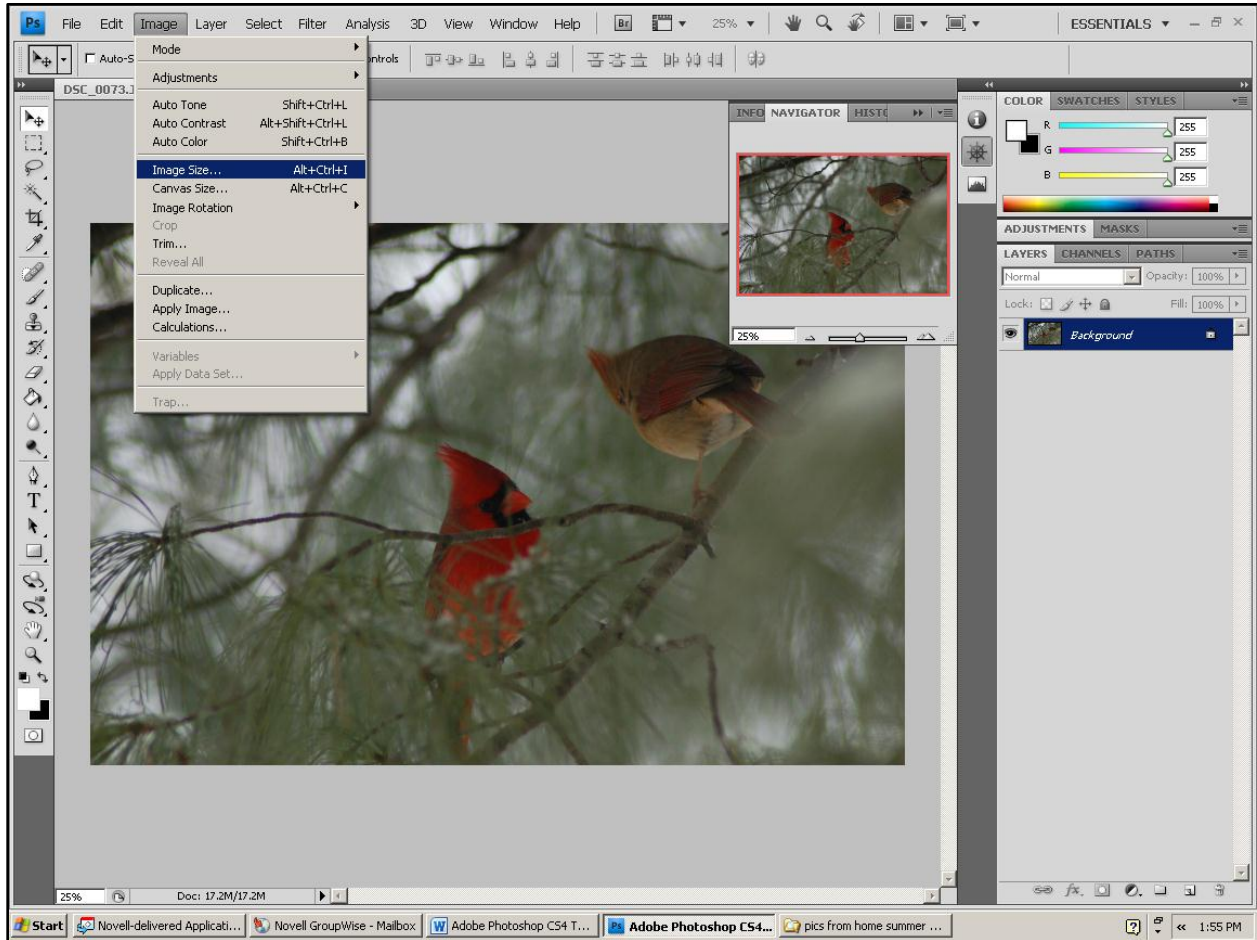
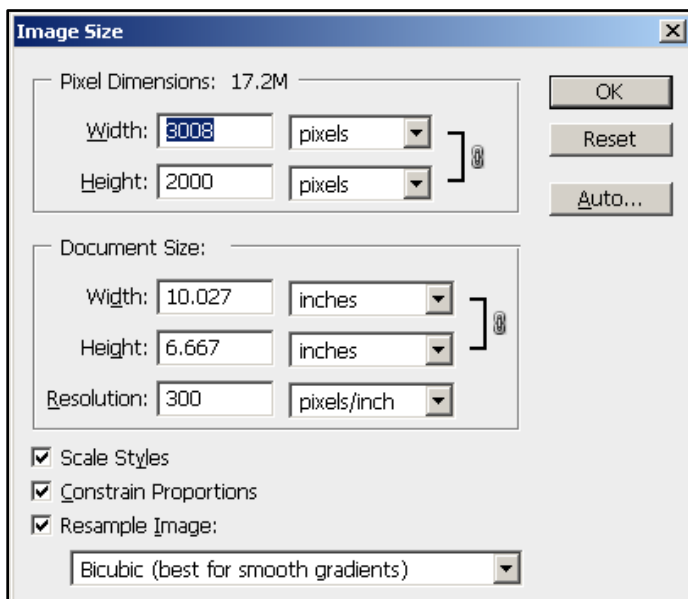


Adobe Photoshop CS4 Tutorial -- Common Image Adjustments

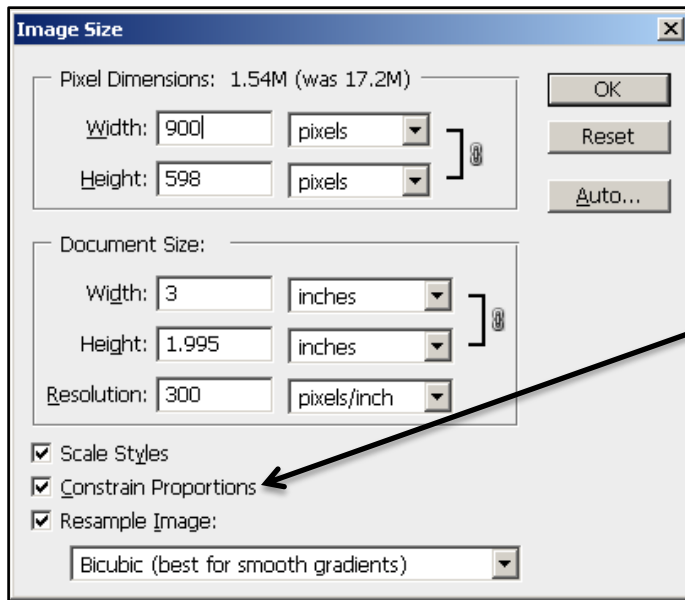
#1 Resizing Pictures and Reducing File size (Makes Email Attachments and Web Pages bring the Pictures up Faster).



Open your picture in Photoshop. Click on Image on the menu bar and go down to Image size.



In the next window, you can see the width and height of the pictures in pixels. You can see that this picture is 3008 x 2000, and that is a VERY large picture. If you were to check the file size of this picture, you would see that it is 1.52M, which is very large, especially if you are going to send it as an email attachment or put it on a web page.

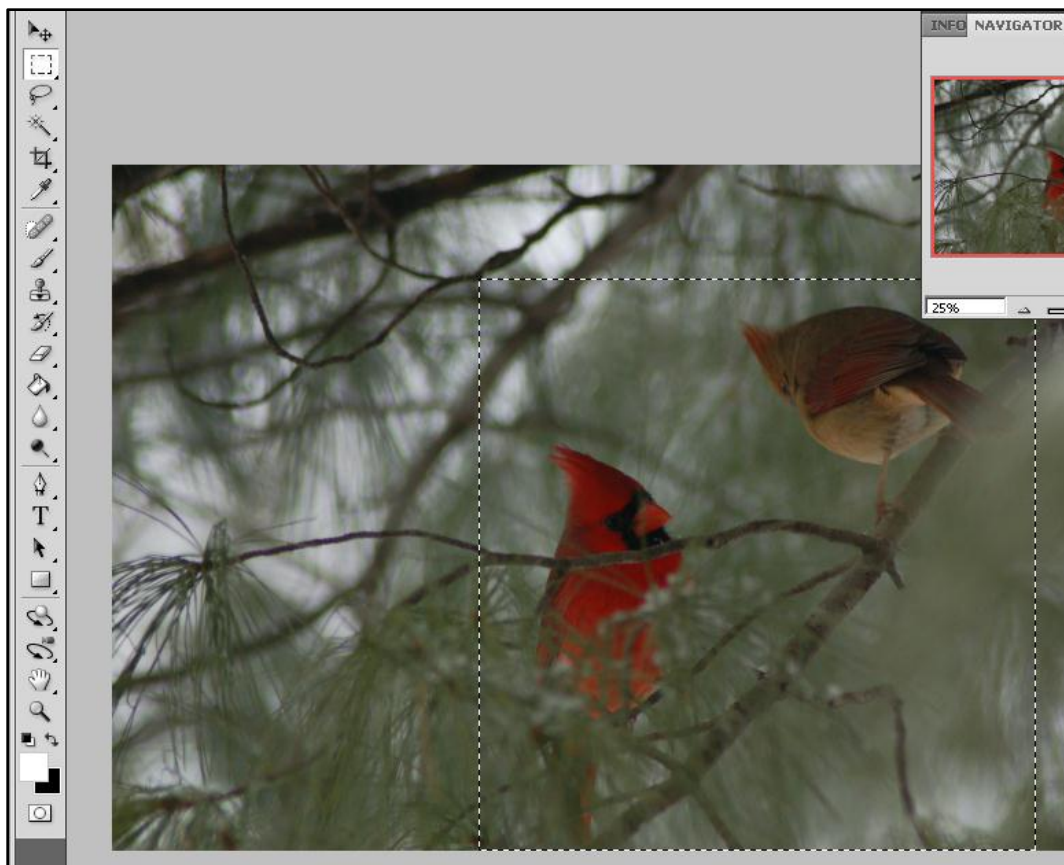


Let's see what would happen if we reduced the width to 900 pixels.

If you leave the "Constrain Proportions" checked, the height of the picture will be reduced in the original proportion. This is important so the picture doesn't get distorted.

Now when we check the file size of this picture, it is 131 KB, which is a lot smaller file size now, and could easily be sent as an email attachment or put on a web page.

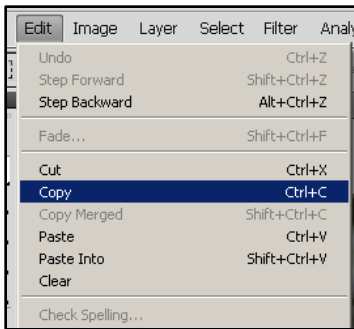
#2 Another thing you can do to reduce file size is to crop pictures.



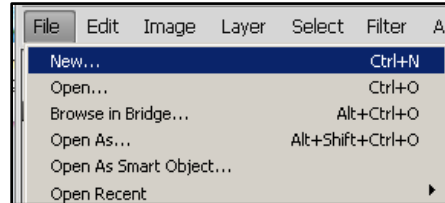
Click on the selection tool



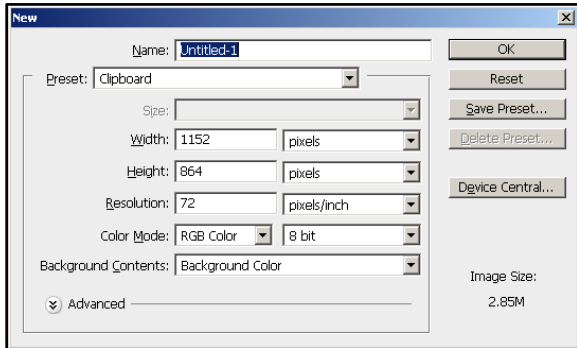
and drag to make a box around the part of the picture you want to keep.



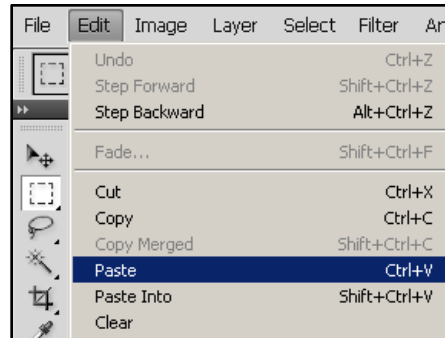
Click on Edit and drag down to Copy.



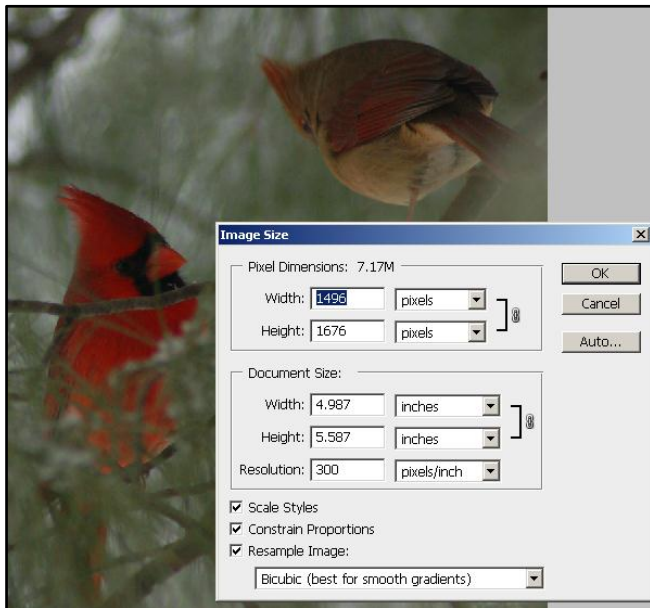
Click on File and go down to New.



In the next window, click OK.



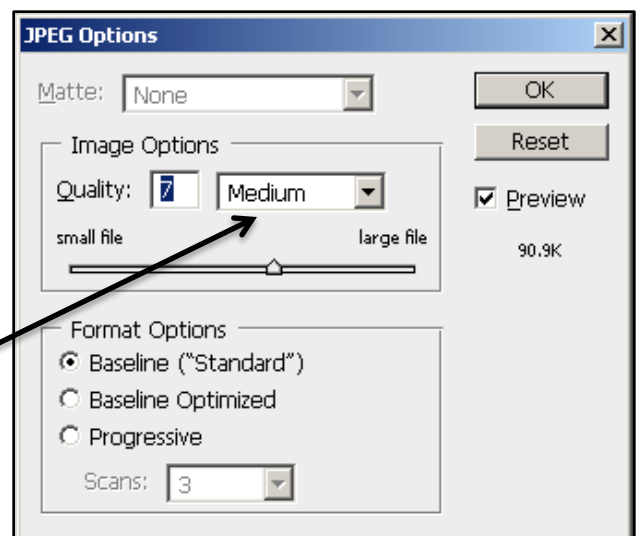
Now click on Edit and go down to Paste.



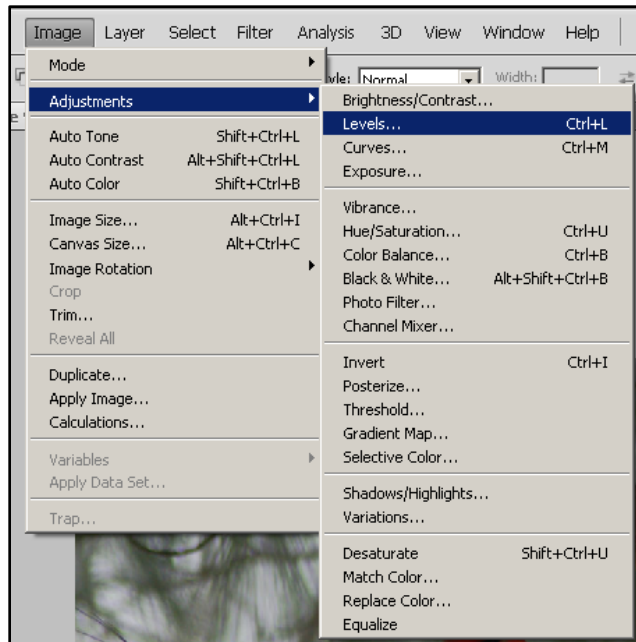
When you save your pictures, it will always ask you if you want to lower the Quality. Click on the slider bar and drag backwards to Medium. This will cut the file size in half, but you will hardly be able to see any difference.

If you check properties on this new clipped picture, you will see that it is about half the size of the original. You can then reduce the picture with the steps in #1 and save even more file space.

#3 Another way to decrease File Size by lowering the Quality.



#4 Lightening up dark pictures.

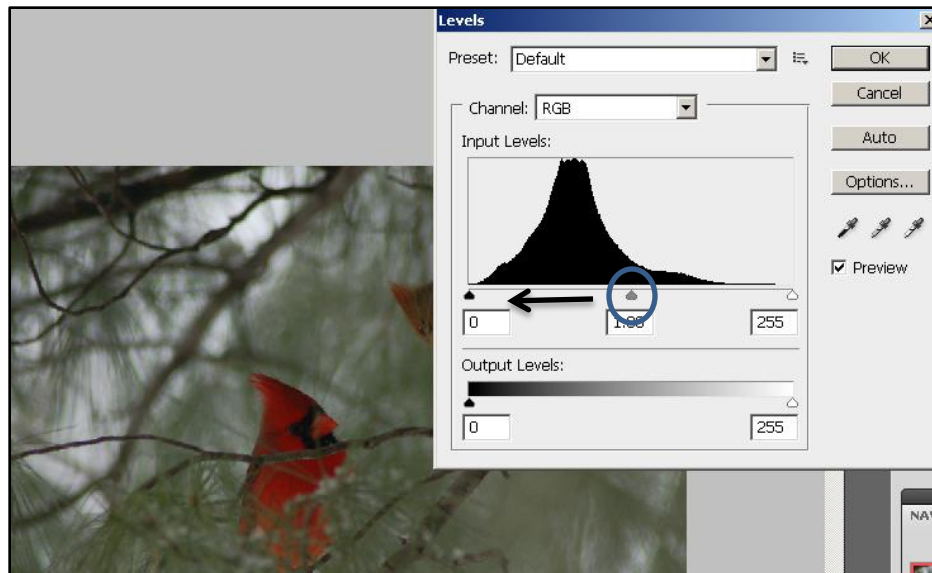


One very easy way to lighten a photograph is to adjust the mid-tone levels.

Every picture has three levels: Highlights, Mid-tones, and Shadows.

If you use a common “lightening” tool, it usually lightens all three of these levels, resulting in a blurry grayish picture. If, however, you adjust just the mid-tones, it leaves the other levels intact, creating much more detail in the picture.

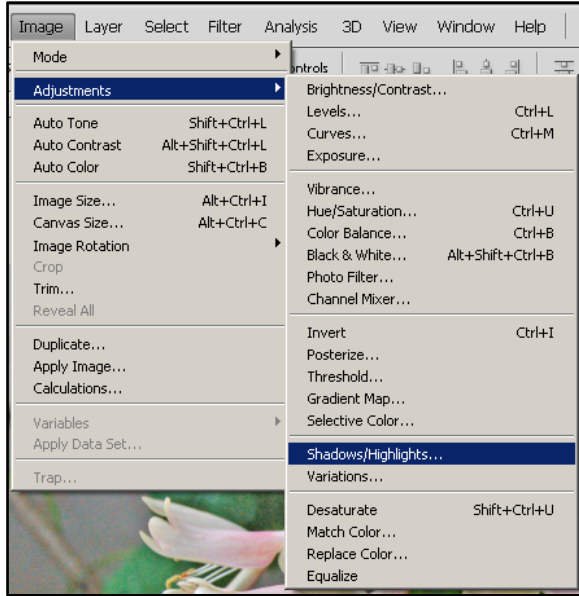
Click on Images (top menu bar) and drag to “Adjustments” and over to “Levels.”



Click and drag the little dark triangle that is in the center under the levels graph.

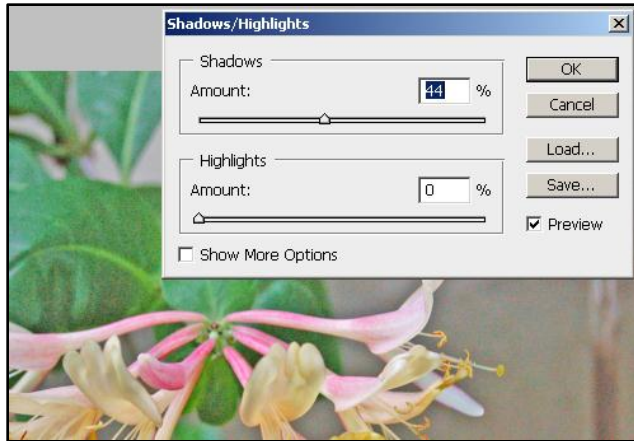
This marker adjusts just the mid-tones. Click and drag it to the **left**.

As you slowly drag the middle triangle (mid-tones) you will see that it lightens the picture up but the contrast is much better because the shadow levels and brightness levels are not being changed. You may need to drag the levels window over to the side so you see what your adjustments are doing to the picture. Click ok when you are satisfied with it.



Another thing you can do to lighten the picture is to manipulate the shadows and highlights (very similar to the Levels, but slightly different results).

Click on Image and scroll down to Adjustments and over and down to Shadows/Highlights.

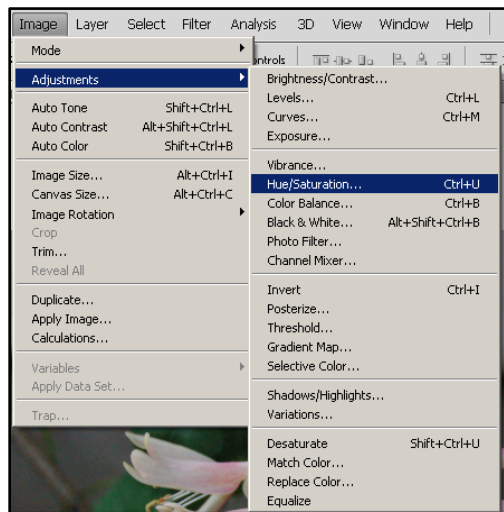


In the next window, try moving the Shadows bar to the left and the Highlights bar to the left in order to lighten up the picture.

Working with Washed-Out Looking Pictures

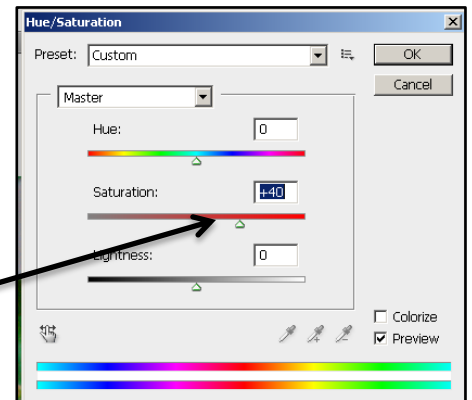
Sometimes due to over or underexposure in taking pictures, they seem to look washed

out and dull. You can brighten up the colors with the saturation tool.



Click on Image and scroll down to Adjustments and over and down to Hue/Saturation.

In the next window, more the slider bar on the Saturation bar over to the right until the colors seem brighter & more vivid.



Two ways to remove objects from a picture.



Let's say in this picture we wanted to remove the fence post.

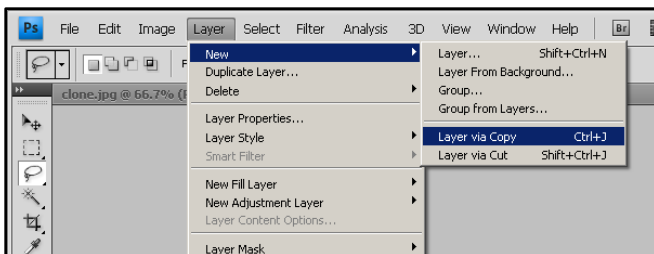
#1) the first way to get rid of it is to cover it with a "mask."



Using the lasso tool, drag a circle around the object you want removed (the fence post). It doesn't have to be perfect, sometimes the mask looks more natural if it is ragged because it blends into the background better.



Next, with the lasso tool still active, click in the center of the fence-post selection, and holding the mouse key down, drag the selection over to a place that looks like it could cover the fence post and blend in to the background well.



Now, release the mouse key and click on Layer, and scroll down to new, and over and down to Layer via Copy. You won't see anything happen.

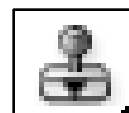


Now switch to this “Move” tool. Click where you think you put the selection, and drag it back over the fence post.



If the selection doesn't blend in well in some places, you can save the picture and then bring it back up and use the blur tool to soften the apparent edges until they blend in.

2#) Method number 2 for removing or covering up objects....the Clone tool.



With the clone tool, you can set a spot that is similar to the color/texture that you want to cover the unwanted object with. You set the spot by holding down the Alt key and clicking.

Then with short strokes begin “painting” over the unwanted object. Reset your spot often in order to avoid having a texture that looks like it repeats a part of the picture.

In this picture you would set your spot in the dark green grass to cover the fence post's bottom. As you work up the post, you would set your spot in some of the grayish grass, etc.

Remember to use short strokes (as shown in the picture) and reset your spot often.



Blending 2 or more pictures together (called a gradient).

You can make very interesting pictures by blending several pictures together with a mask and the gradient tool.





First bring up the picture that will be the background picture.



Next, bring up the second picture. Select what you want to be blended into the background picture.

You can either use the rectangle selection tool to select the whole picture, or.....

You can use the lasso tool to select just part of the picture.

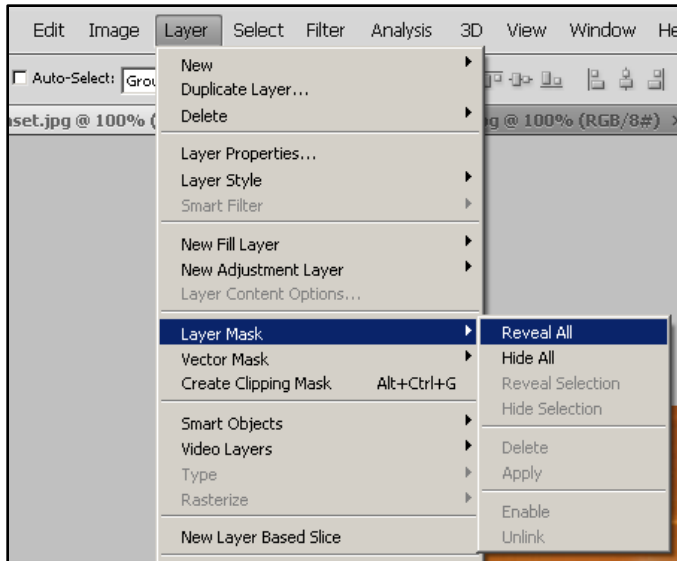
After you have selected it, copy the selection (use the keyboard short

cut...Ctrl key at same time as "c" key).

Go to the other picture and paste it in (use the keyboard shortcut...Ctrl key at same time as "v" key.

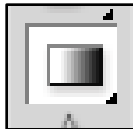
Switch to the "move" key and you can move the picture around to place it where you want it.





Click on Layer and scroll down to Layer Mask and over to Reveal All.

Next click on the gradient tool.



Draw a diagonal line across the page. Keep experimenting until you like the gradient effect.

You can add as many pictures as you want, just remember that each one has to have a mask created on it that will “reveal all.”

