Total time:
4-6 hours

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Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

• Learning how compositing works
• Discovering inexpensive alternatives to full programs like Photoshop
• Creating some composite images

COMPOSITING IMAGES
TO REACH NEW LEVELS OF CREATIVITY

Compositing is the combining of visual elements from separate sources into a single photograph. The idea behind the final photo may be to create something realistic or something more fantasy oriented.

PHOTZY.COM

KEY LESSON: Compositing used to be difficult since it used to require expensive layering programs like Photoshop. Now, you can composite images using phone-editing apps, which is a great way to get started - if you don't want to spend a lot of money on a full-featured editing suite. Our favorite phone editing apps for compositing are: *Photoshop Mix* (requires free Cloud account), *Snapseed*, *Photoblend Pro*, *Enlight*, *Blend Editor*, and *Fused*. They are either free or only cost a few dollars.

EQUIPMENT: Any camera including mobile | Any lens | Software: This requires a layer-based program such as Photoshop (Lightroom will not work), **or an appropriate smart phone app.**
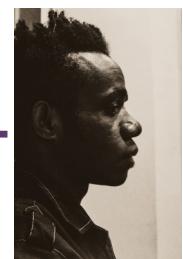
SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS

Waterscapes: Here are two photographs that can be combined, through compositing, to create a stronger single image. If you're completely new to compositing, start with a simple app. For a beginner, we recommend *Fused*. Try each app since all have one or two composite techniques that they are really good at.

Red Light & Snow: With compositing, you can do what's called *overlay* imaging: where you "blend" parts of each image together. Many apps refer to compositing as *blending*. Here, the original was *blended* with a texture layer, and a semi-transparent teal colored layer, to create a final image that was far more interesting.

Window: When you begin compositing, you will start seeing objects, and scenes, as pieces to a puzzle rather than finished photos!
There are two key factors to compositing: layers and masks. If your image file was created with a different camera, such as a DSLR, simply transfer the file to your app for editing (it may require a .jpeg file). Make sure that all of the resolution settings are set to the highest resolution: both for importing & exporting.

📷 **ACTION ASSIGNMENT!**

1- For the purposes of this Action Assignment, we want you to use an app. Compositing in Photoshop requires a far deeper explanation (See Photzy.com for the Masking Guide). We encourage you to use the app "Fused" (easiest), Photoshop Mix (easier with full features), or Blend Editor (numerous creative options).
2- Pick two photographs to composite. One photograph should be simple and without a lot of detail. The other photograph should be a headshot of a friend or family member against a black background.
3- Blend the two shots using your apps. Try all the different settings to get familiar with them.

HOW DID YOU DO?

• Do you now have a basic understanding of what compositing is and how it works? Which app worked best?
• Are your composited photos visually stronger, and more interesting, than either of the individual photos used?

READY! SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS** - **STRETCH GOALS:** COMPOSITING
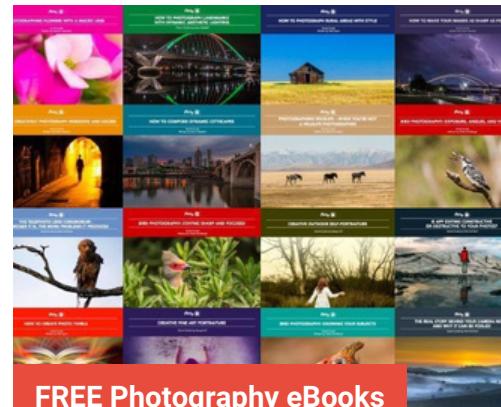
👍 SWEET!
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Take this 30 second quiz to find out the #1 thing holding your photography back.

Take quiz →

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More on the next page

👋 Hey there!

Let's get real for a minute... Learning photography can be super challenging! But we're here to help you every step of the way!

Here are 3 of our most useful *(and FREE!)* photography resources—

1. Take this **30 Second Quiz** to find the #1 thing holding your photography back.
2. Download these **3 Free Photography Cheat Sheets** to help you understand the basics.
3. Access our **Free Photography eBook Library**, with 250+ downloadable (.pdf) tutorials on Photo Fundamentals, Post-Processing, Composition, Low-light, and much more!

Always remember: Momentum is the key to exploring and developing your creative talents...

So get out there and take some more pictures!

photzy™

We're so glad you're here!

Photzy.com is an online photography school with over 200,000 students from 180 countries.

Founded in 2012, our focus has always been simple, practical tips and tutorials, for beginners. No matter where your current skill level is, we'd like to help you explore your unique creative side, through photography.

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