

# Learning Photoshop with GIMP 1

## **Introduction:**

Hello everyone! It is the hope of everyone at CanCODE and EUREKA! that, despite recent events necessitating the closure of schools, we can still teach important digital skills to students in the Kamloops area.

This document will outline a detailed introduction to photoshop using GIMP. It will also be accompanied by an optional video tutorial that will walk through all steps outlined in this document. Before we get started, though, it is important that we make sure we have everything we need:

## **Supplies Needed:**

A Computer
Internet Connection
Folder titled 'GIMP Part 1 Package' - Downloaded from our <a href="#">CanCode Workshops</a> page. Save this folder directly to your desktop.
<a href="#">GIMP</a> Installed <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Click the Download button on the main page.</li><li>2. Click the big orange button that says "Download GIMP directly".</li></ol>

The GIMP Tools document has lots of tips in it, so take a look if you are stuck!

## **Part One:**

What are the differences between photoshop and photo editing?

Photoshop:	removing scars or imperfections from a person's face, changing their body, or combining two images together
Photo Editing:	changing brightness, contrast, saturation, colour, fade, shadows, highlights, etc.

As we can see, photoshop and photo editing are very different things. If you'd like to try your hand at distinguishing something that's been photoshopped from a real image, try the first 10 levels of [this](#) game.

If that link didn't work for you, here's the full URL. Copy and paste it into your web browser:  
<https://landing.adobe.com/en/na/products/creative-cloud/69308-real-or-photoshop/index.html>

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How'd you do? If you didn't do so well, that's okay. Photoshopped images are hard to tell apart from real images already, and the technology is only getting better. That's why we have to be very careful with what images we believe are real.

## Part Two:

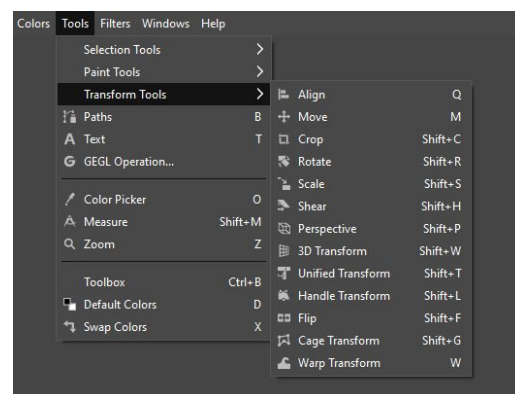
Let's take a look at some of the functions of GIMP before we start our first activity today.



The areas highlighted in red in the above image are the tool areas. They allow you to select different tools to work with.

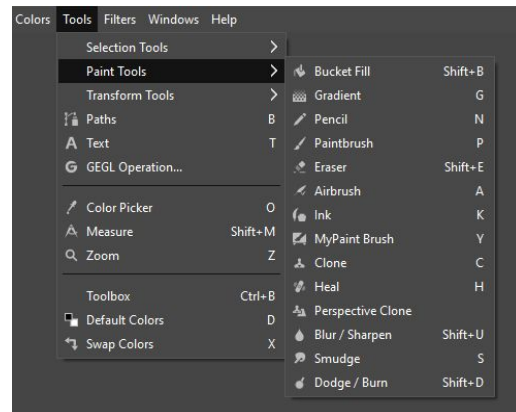
The area highlighted in blue in the above image is the tool options bar. It lets you change different features of the tool you are using.

The 'transform tools' part of the tools options menu allows you to transform your image in different ways such as rotating, scaling, or moving the image.

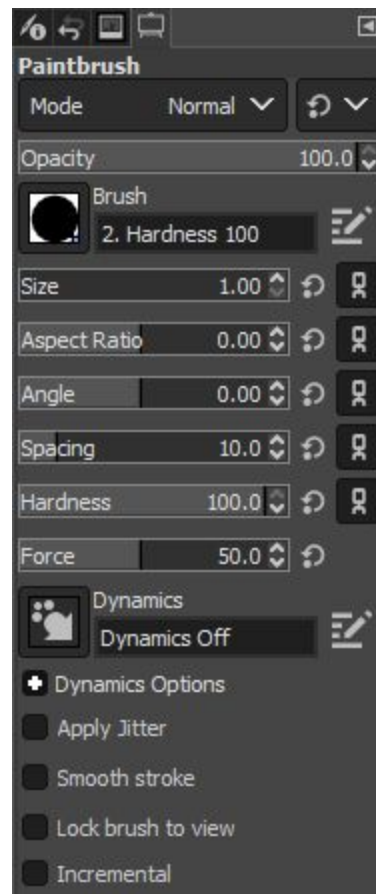


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The 'paint tools' part of the tools options menu allows you to draw parts of your image in different ways, such as blurring, erasing, or airbrushing.



The most relevant usage of the tool options in this workshop is altering your brush. You can change your brush size using the 'size' option, or your brush shape by clicking the image of the shape.



Layers are another important element of GIMP to discuss before you start working with GIMP. GIMP uses layers to order photos. These layers act like normal layers - an easy mental reference is sheets of paper. For stacked sheets of paper, will you see the bottom layer through the top? No - not unless you cut away parts of the top layer. GIMP behaves the same when working with photos.

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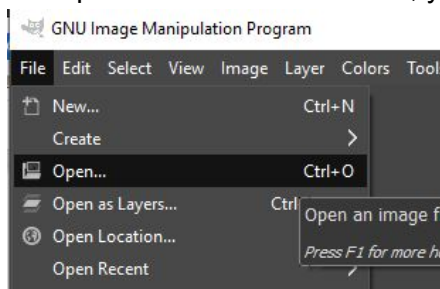
## Activity #1: Selective Colouring

For this first activity, we are going to use layers in GIMP to selectively colour an image, like the one below:



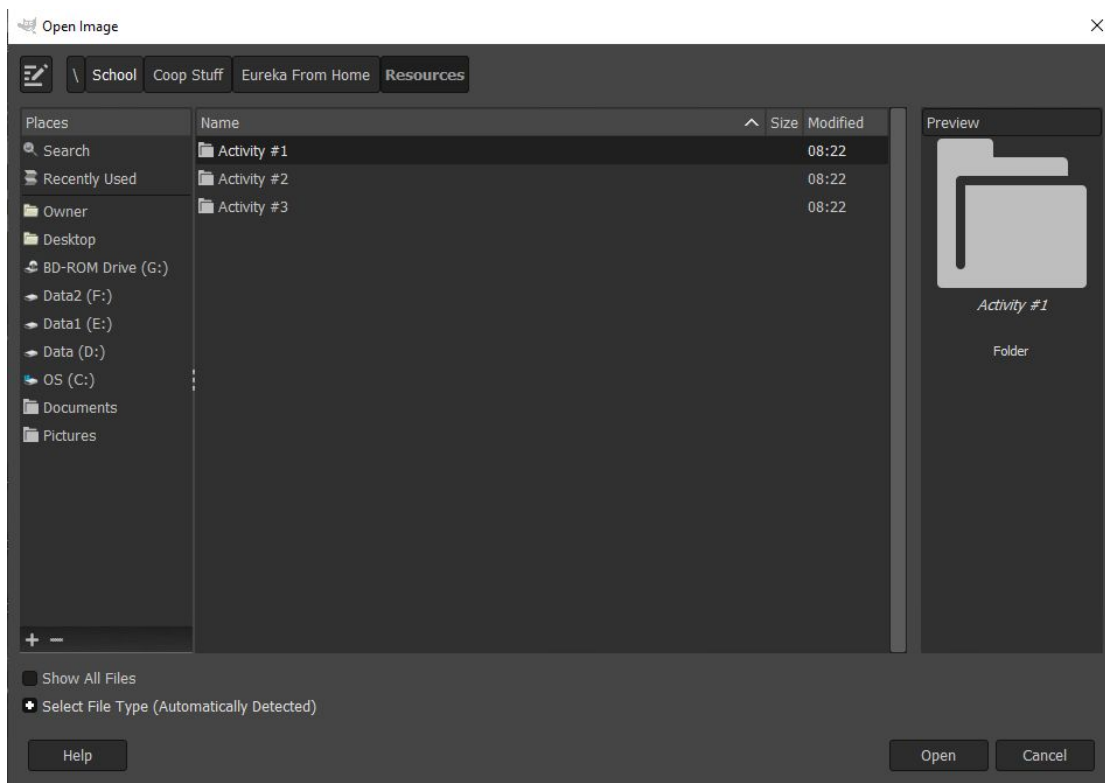
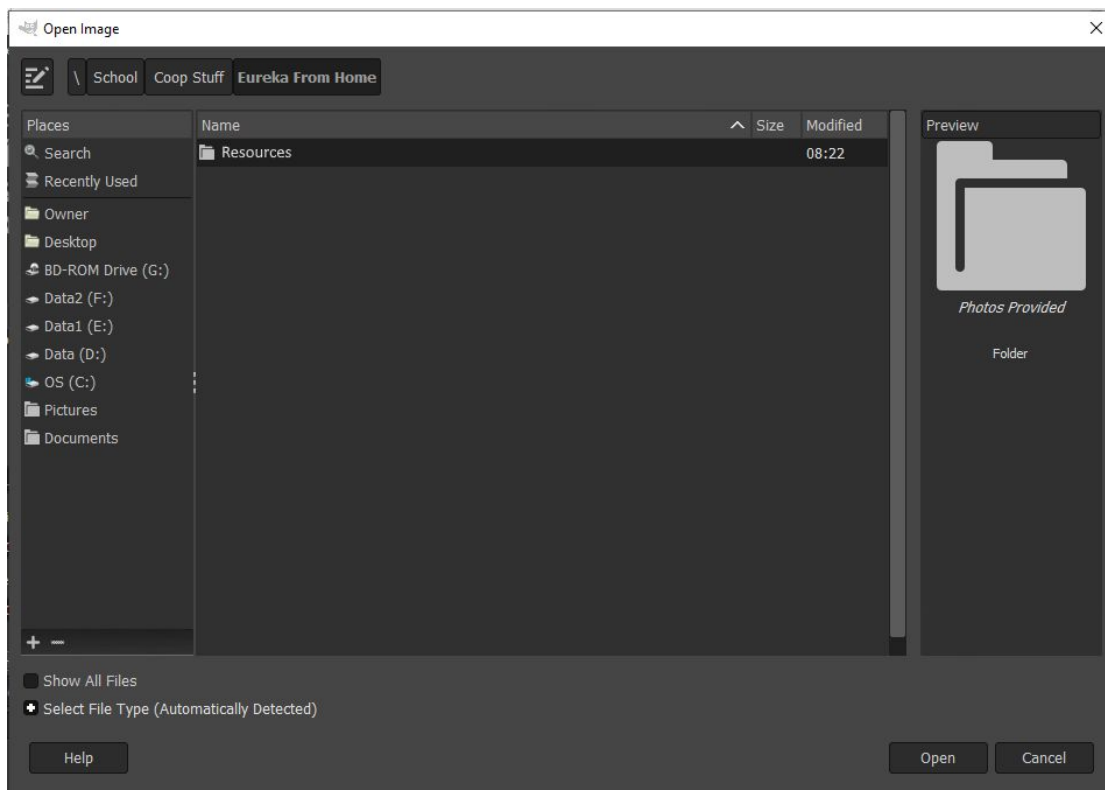
## Procedure:

1. First, we need to have GIMP installed and open. We also need the “Photoshop 1 Resources” folder downloaded and saved to the Desktop. Then start up GIMP, and in the top left of the GIMP window, you want to click File -> Open...



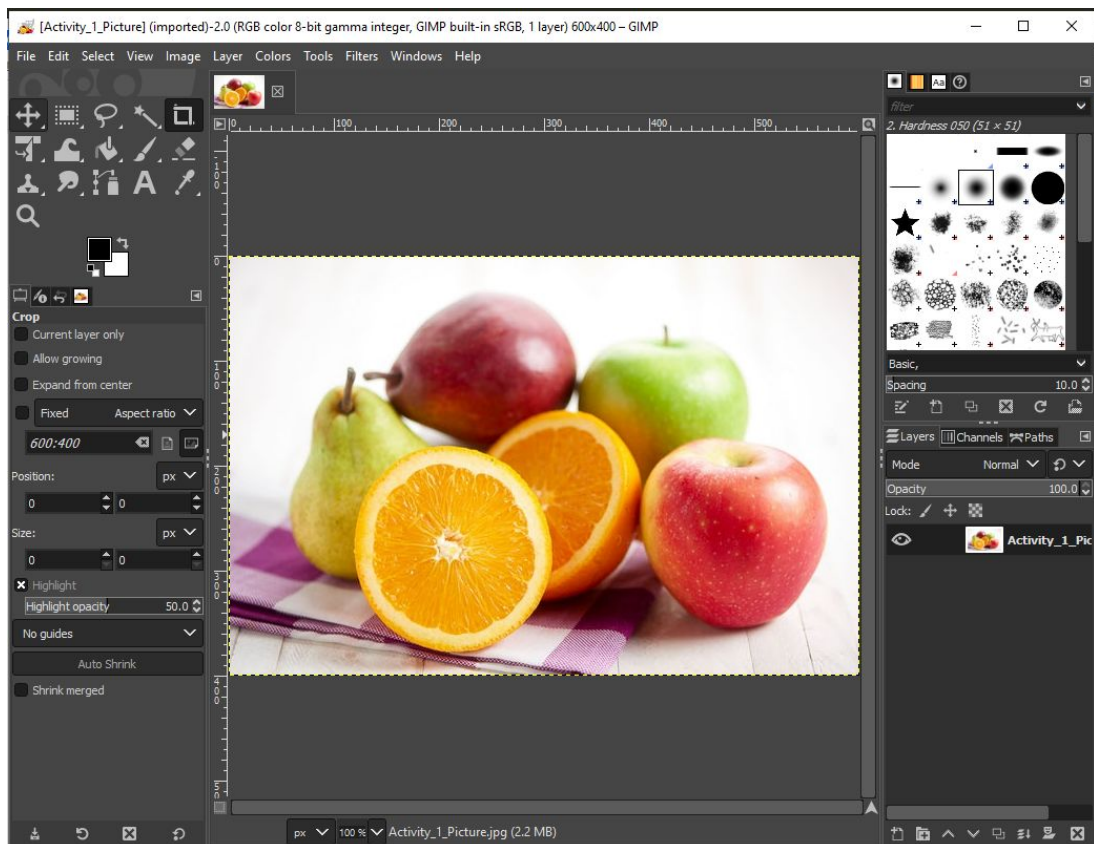
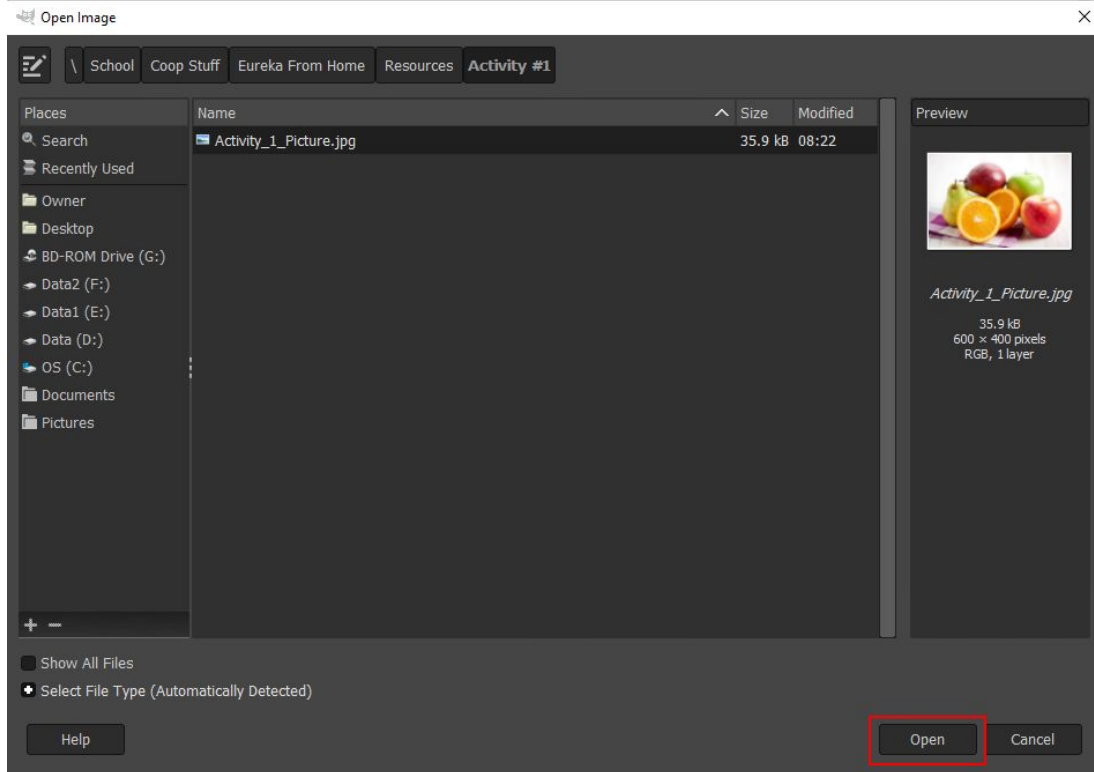
2. In the new window, you want to locate “Desktop” on the left side of the new window, then locate the Resources folder you downloaded earlier. Double click to open it, then open the folder called Activity #1.

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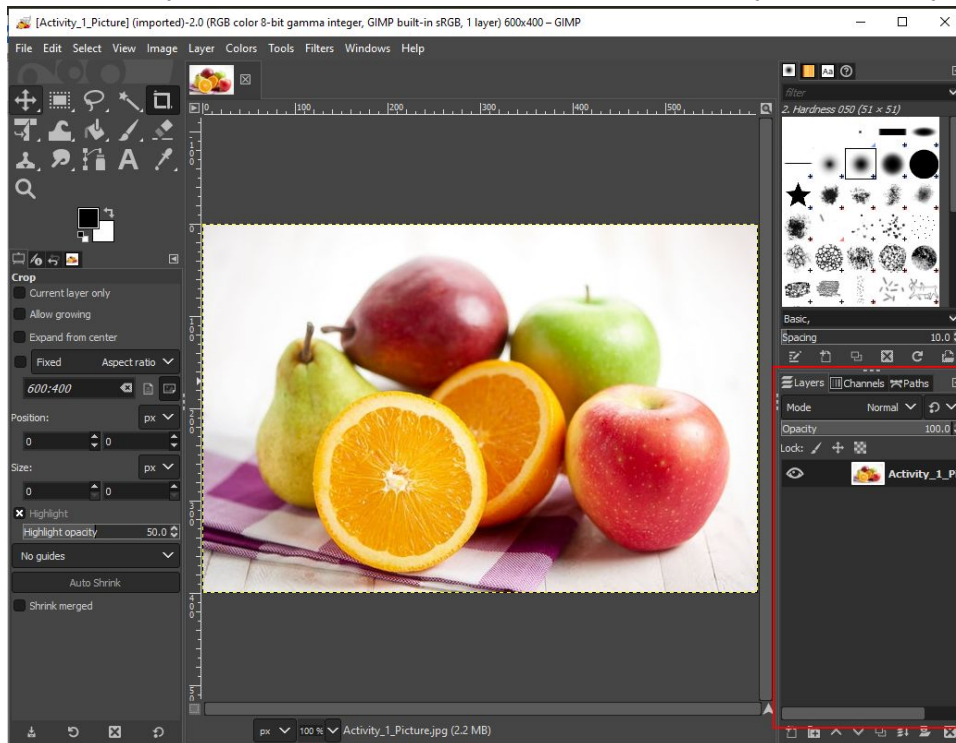
3. Inside is one image. Click Open in the bottom right of the window to open it in GIMP.



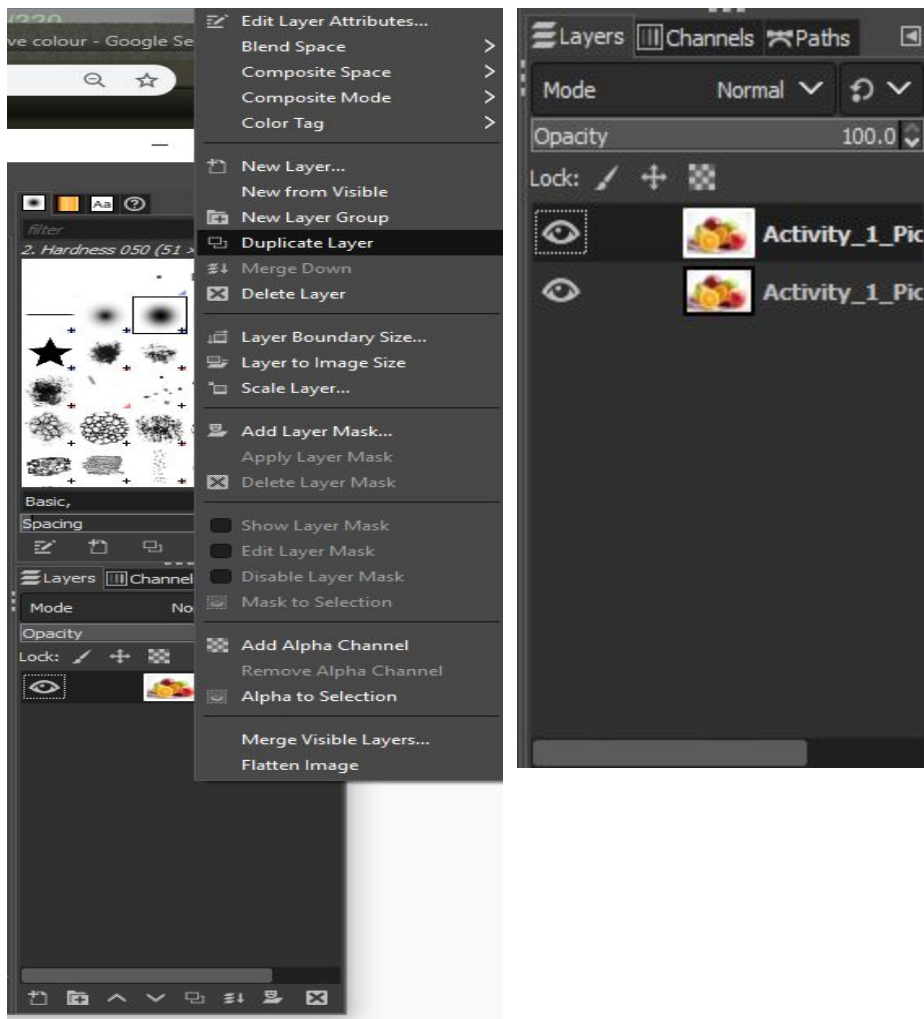


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4. In the bottom right of the GIMP window is the Layers tab. As you can see, we only have one layer right now. We want to right click the small image in the Layers tab, then click Duplicate Layer in the new options. You should see two layers in the Layers tab now.

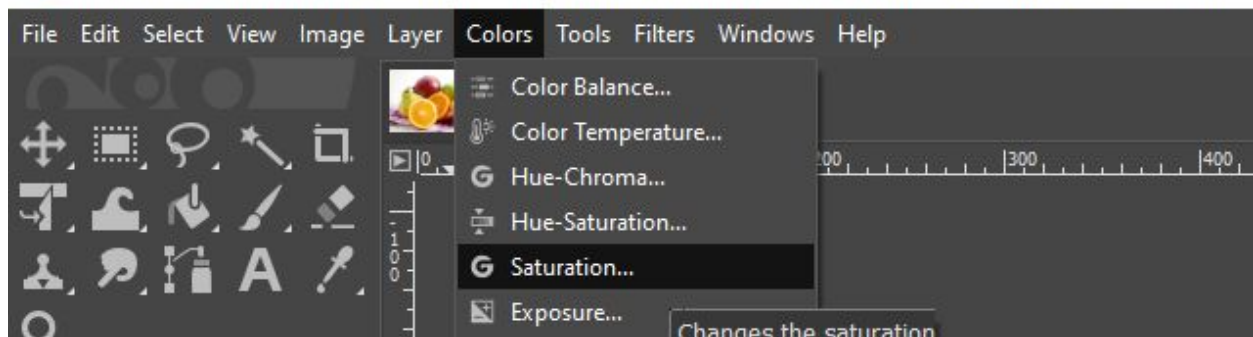


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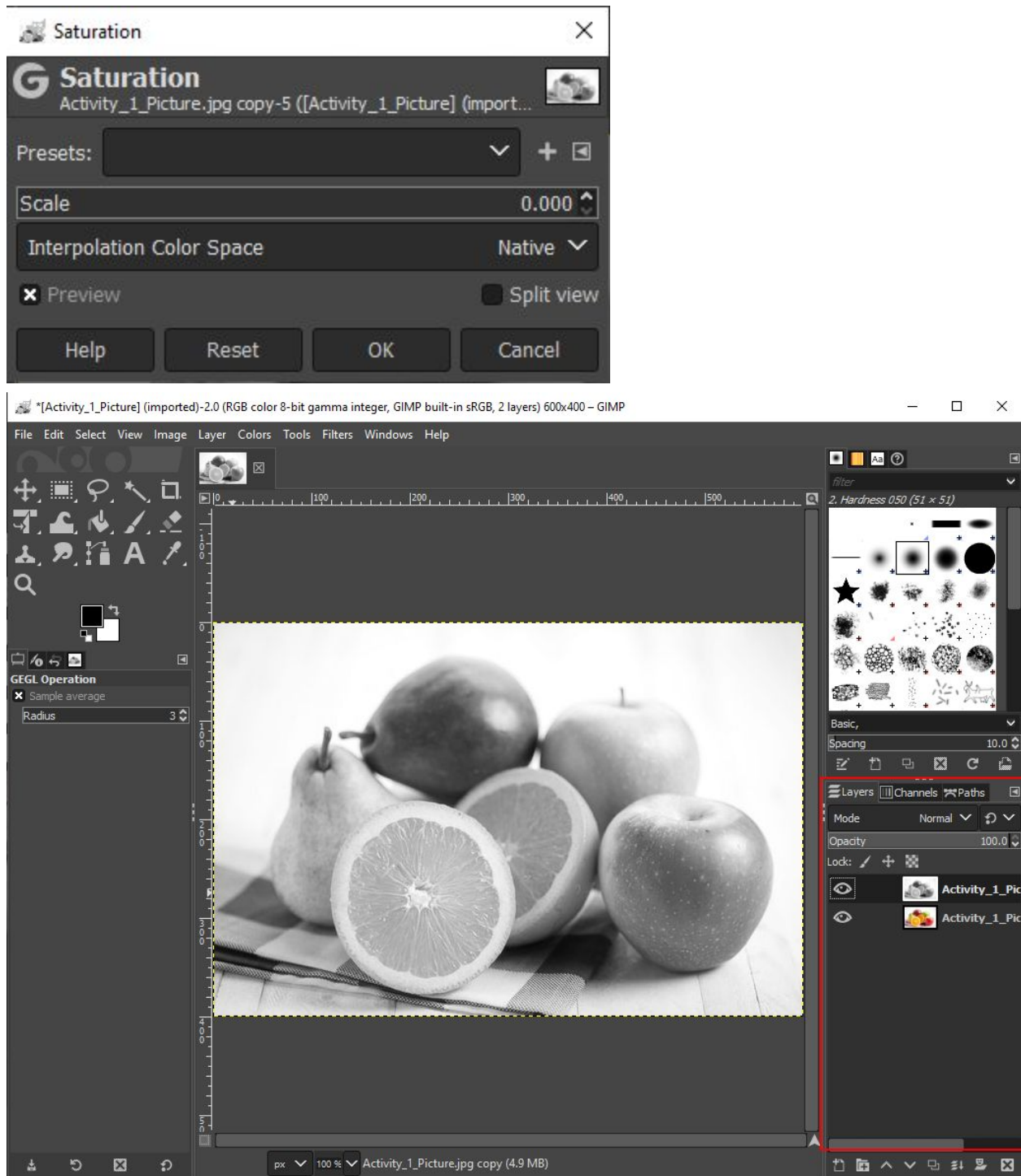
5. With the top layer selected (the first one in the list), at the top of the window, we want to go to Colors -> Saturation... and set the Scale to 0. Then click OK. You should now have two layers; one black and white and one in colour. The black and white one should be on top.

 \*[Activity\_1\_Picture] (imported)-2.0 (RGB color 8-bit gamma integer, GIMP built-in sRGB, 2 layers) 600x400 – GIMP



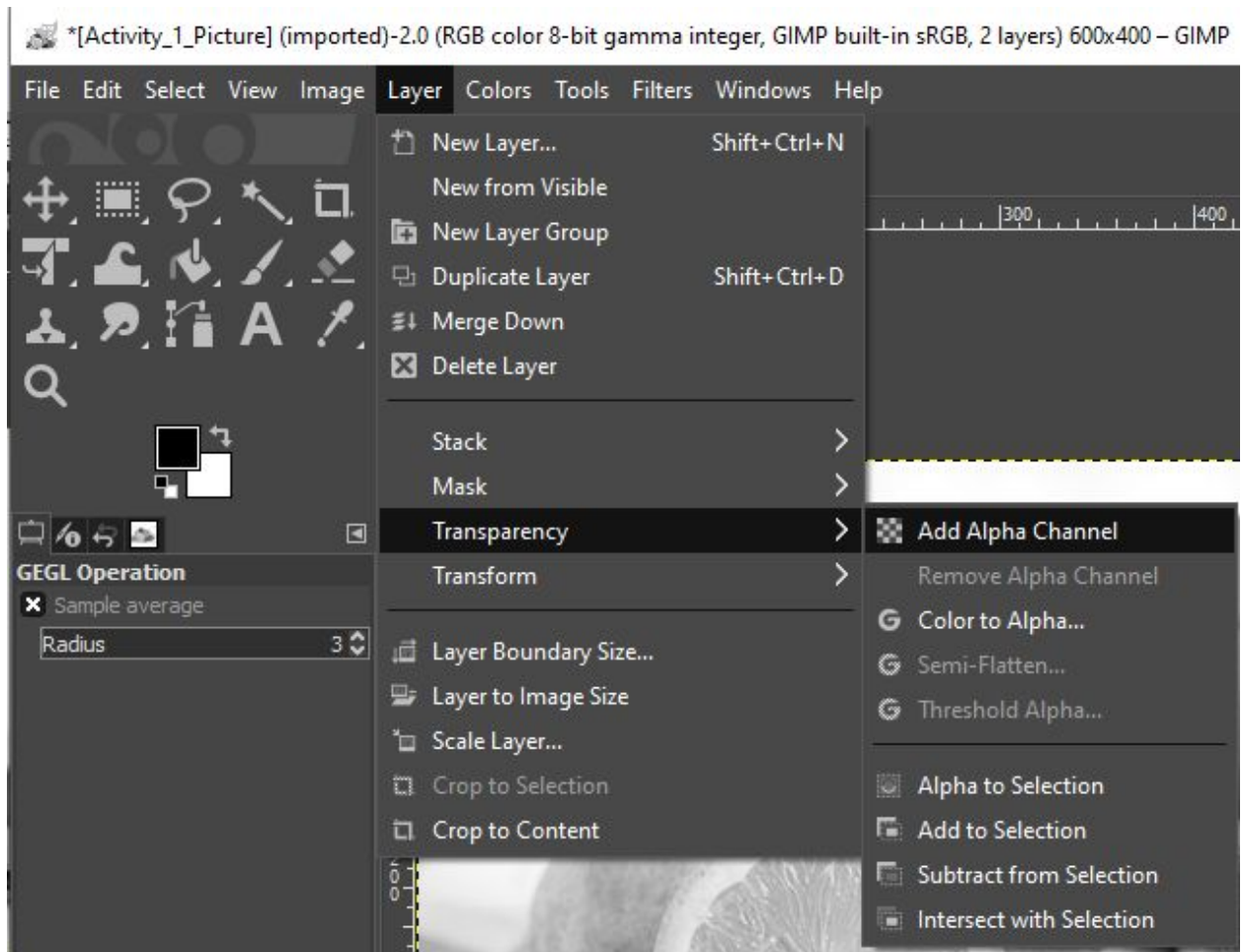


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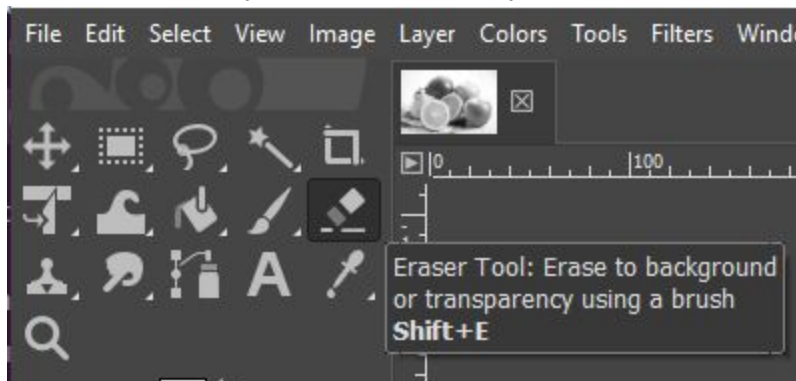


6. Next, we need to add some transparency to the image. Transparency means the same thing as see-through, and is essential for us to selectively colour this image. Go to Layers in the top of the window (Hint: it's next to Colors!), then hover over Transparency, and click "Add Alpha Channel". You will not see an immediate effect, but this is very important.

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7. Finally, we need to find the eraser tool in the tool area. If you hove over the icon of a tool, GIMP will tell you what it is. Once you find the eraser tool, click on it to select it.



8. With the eraser tool selected, we now want to erase one or two of the fruits in the image. You can change the size of the brush in the tool options window below the tool area. Do not erase all of the top layer, or we'll end up back where we started.

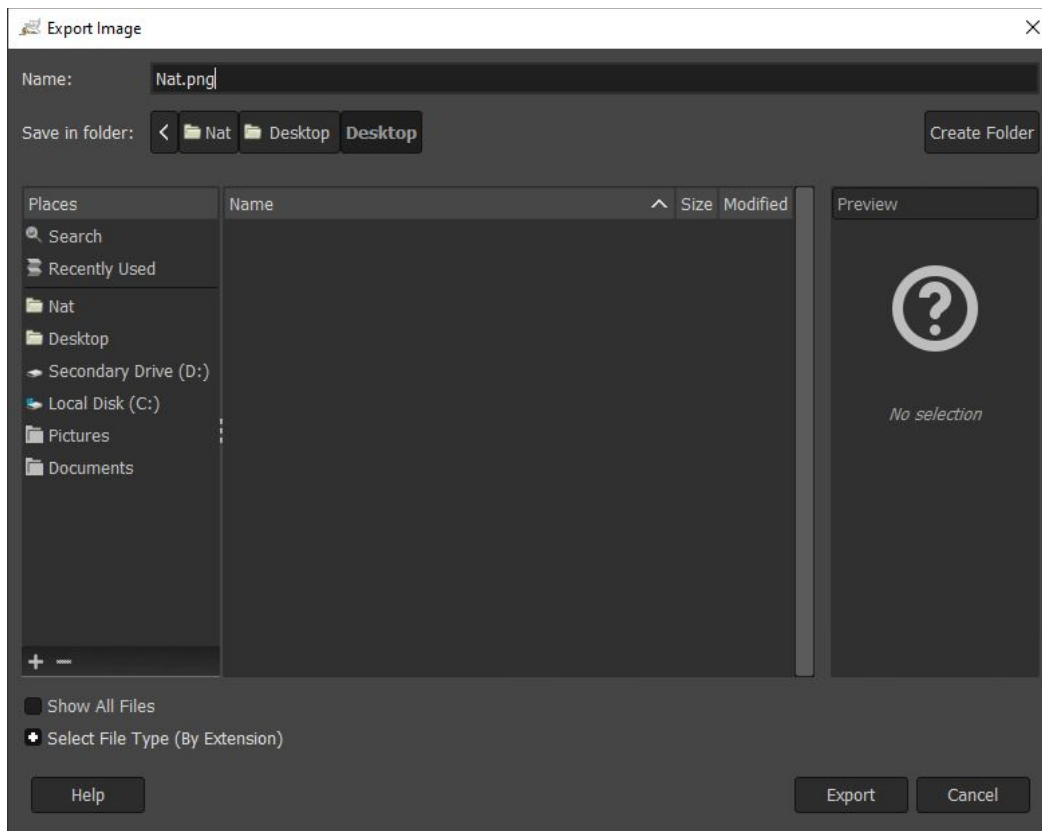
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9. Congratulations! You have now selectively coloured your image. If you want to save your image, your first instinct will probably be to go File -> Save as. This will save the image as a GIMP file, which basically means we can only view the image using GIMP.

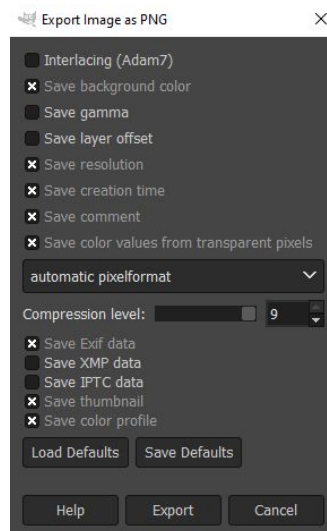
To save the image in a more usable form, we need to go to File -> Export As instead.

In the box that pops up, click on the 'desktop' folder to the left, then rename the image to **yourname.png** - just like in the example on the next page.

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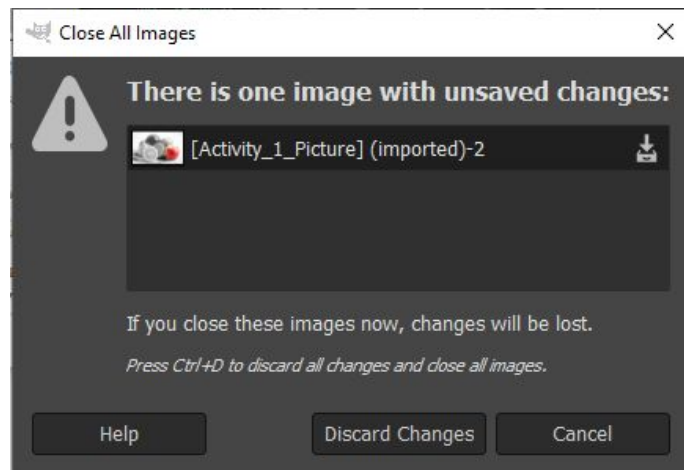
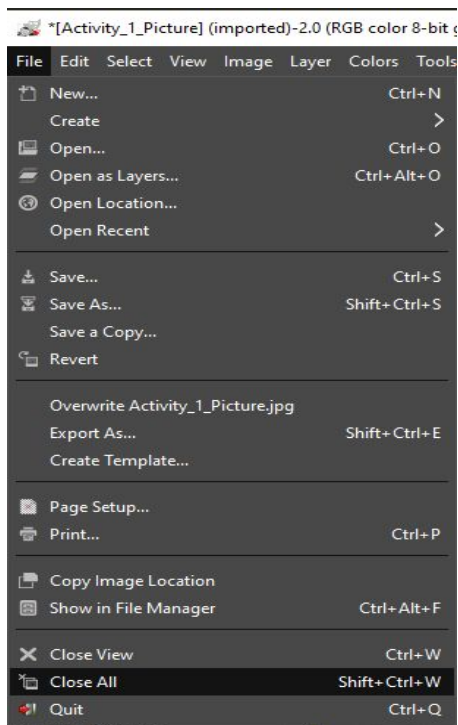


The next step is to click export (just once - don't mash it!), then to click export again on the new box that will pop up. This will save the image in a form we can use anywhere.



10. When you are ready to continue to the next activity, select File -> Close All -> Discard Changes.

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## Troubleshooting

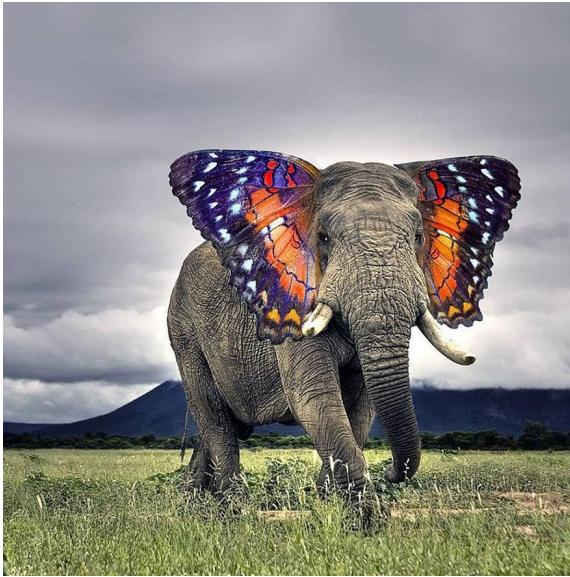
- When I erase my image, I colour it in instead!
  - This means you are missing an alpha channel. Refer to step 6.
- I'm missing the tool options / layers tab!
  - If you click on Windows and hover over Dockable Dialogs, you can respawn these tabs.

## Activity #2: Combining Two Photos Together

For the second activity you will be completing today, you will be combining two images in photoshop. This is *likely* the type of photoshop you first thought of when the word 'photoshop' was mentioned, and is probably one of the most fun (and funniest) kinds of photoshopping to do. You can see two examples of two images combined in photoshop below.



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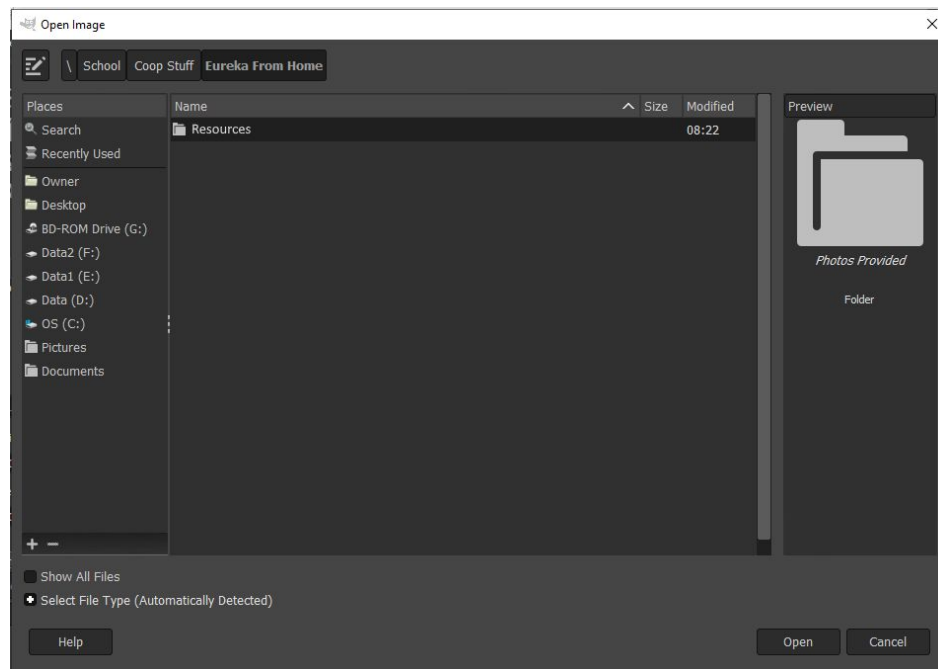


## **Procedure:**

To begin the next activity, you want to repeat a step that you've done before - opening an image. To do so, go to 'File' in the top left of your screen, then go to 'Open'.

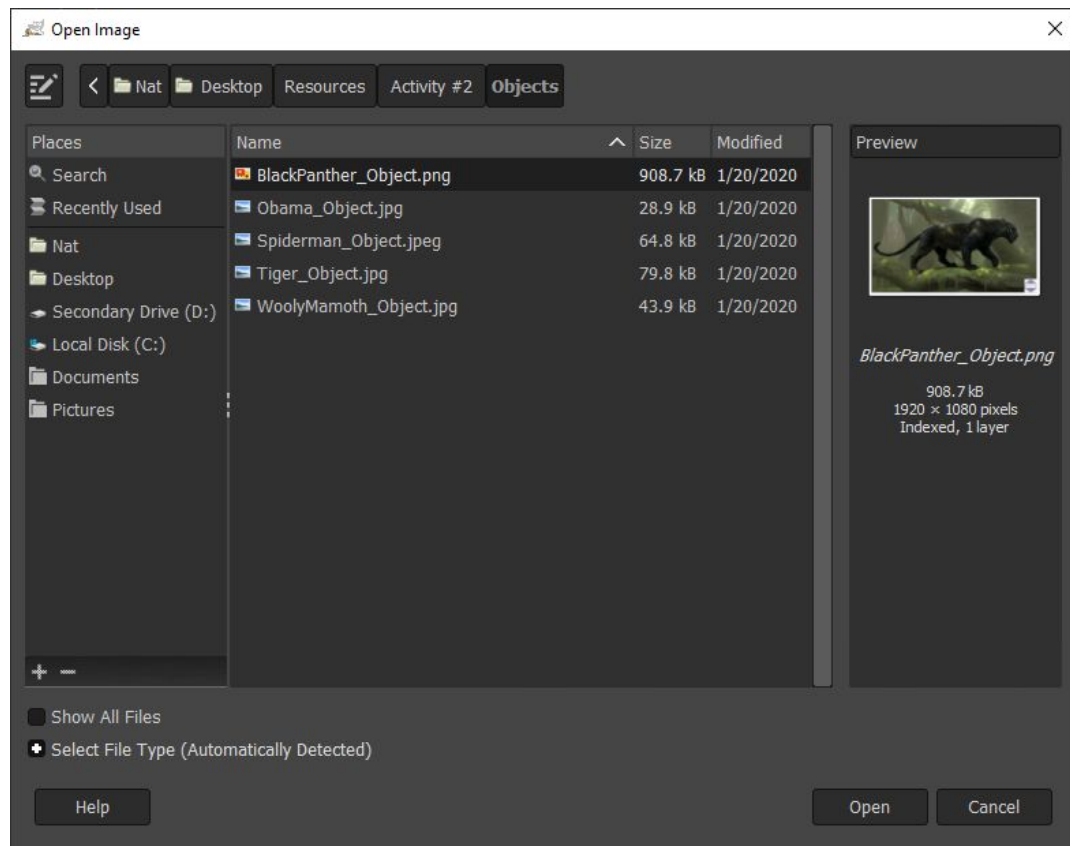
After opening the 'Open Image' menu (see below), open each of these files in order:

Resources → Activity #2 → Objects



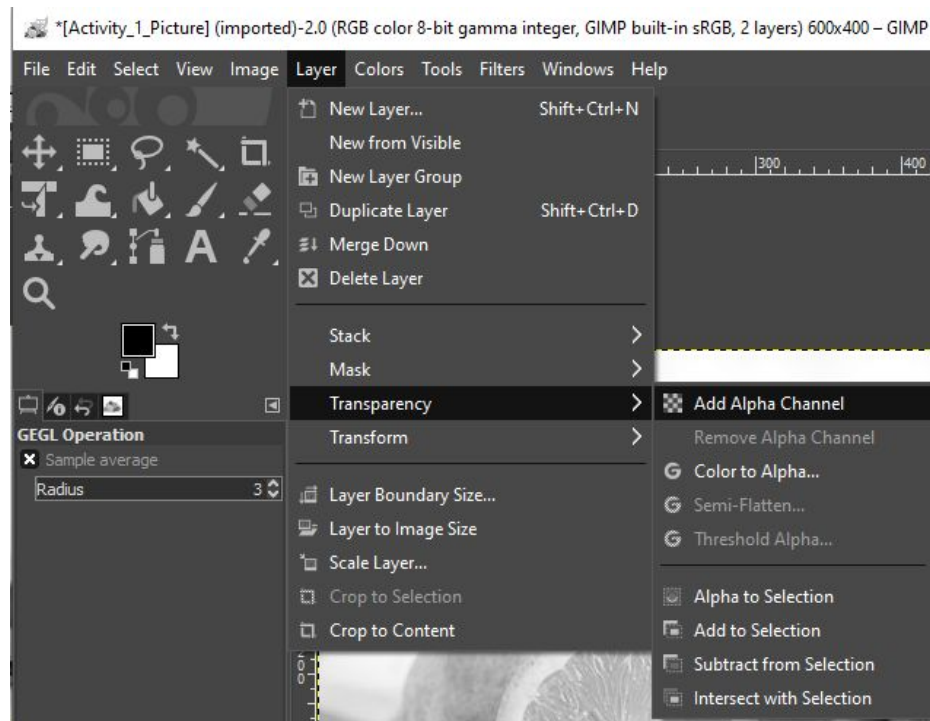
You should see photos of 'objects' in this folder - things like spiderman and animals. Find an image that you like, and open it up by clicking the 'open' button.

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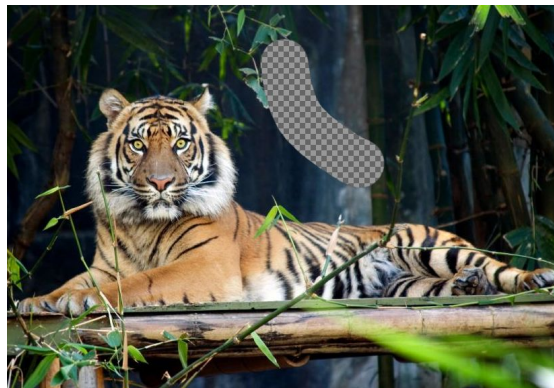
Your next step is to make your object transparent, just as you did before in Activity #1. To do this, go to the 'layer' option at the top, move down to the 'transparency' option and hover over it, then, click add alpha channel.

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We want to cut our image out from its background to move it into another image. To do this, we want to erase the background of the image using the eraser tool. Select the eraser tool by hovering over the buttons on the GIMP toolbar

Next, try erasing some of the background. If you've done everything correctly you should notice a checkered pattern where you've erased, just like in the picture below.



**HINT:** If you don't see the checkered pattern when you erase, try adding an alpha channel again!

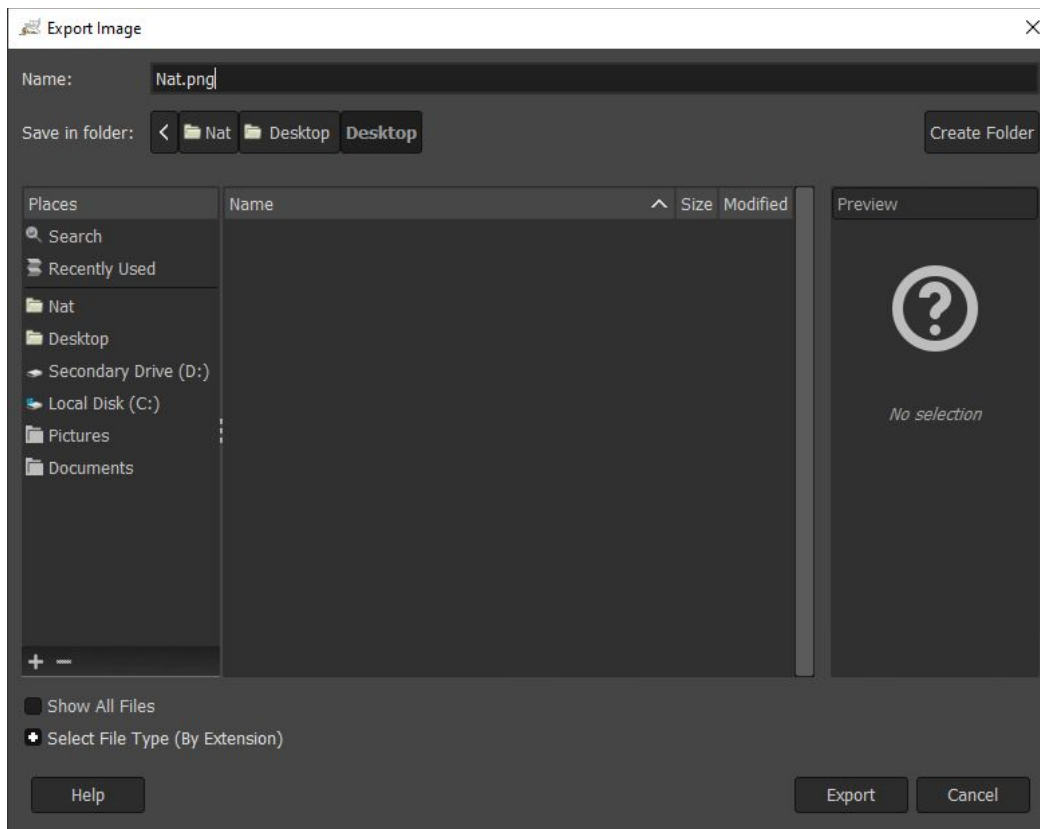
Finish cutting out the image from the background. Your final result might look a little like the picture below.

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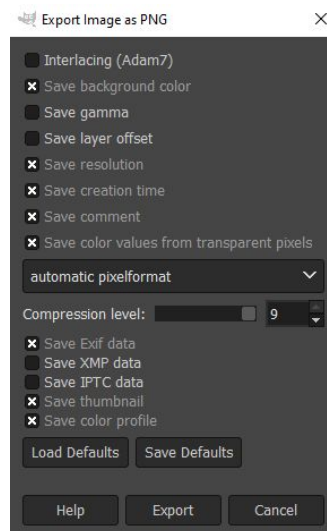
The next step is to save our image so that we can move it into another image -- to do this, go to the 'file' option in the top left, and select the 'export' option.

In the box that pops up, click on the 'desktop' folder to the left, then rename the image to yourname.png - just like in the example below. Note that the .png at the end of the file is *really* important; it allows us to keep the transparent background.

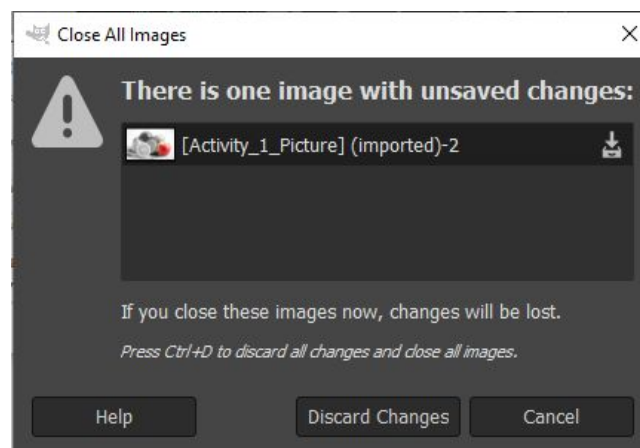
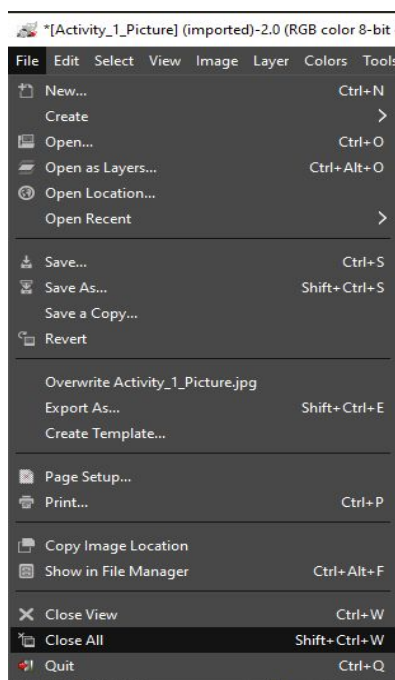


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The next step is to click export (just once - don't mash it!), then to click export again on the new box that will pop up.



The next step is to close your image using the same File → Close All → Discard Changes path you used at the end of Activity #1. Make sure you've exported your image first, or you'll lose all your work!



Next, you want to open up a background image to put your photoshopped image into. To do this, repeat the same opening process that you've used before.

Go to 'File' in the top left of your screen, then go to 'Open'.

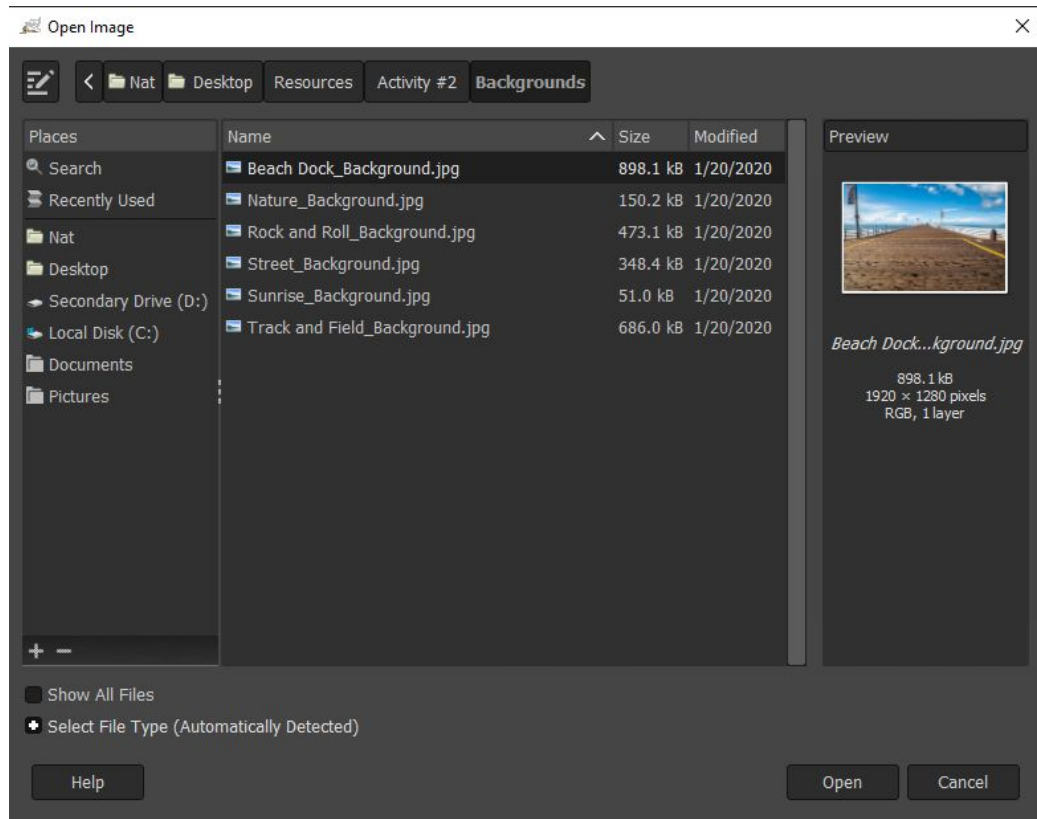


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After opening the 'Open Image' menu, open each of these files in order:

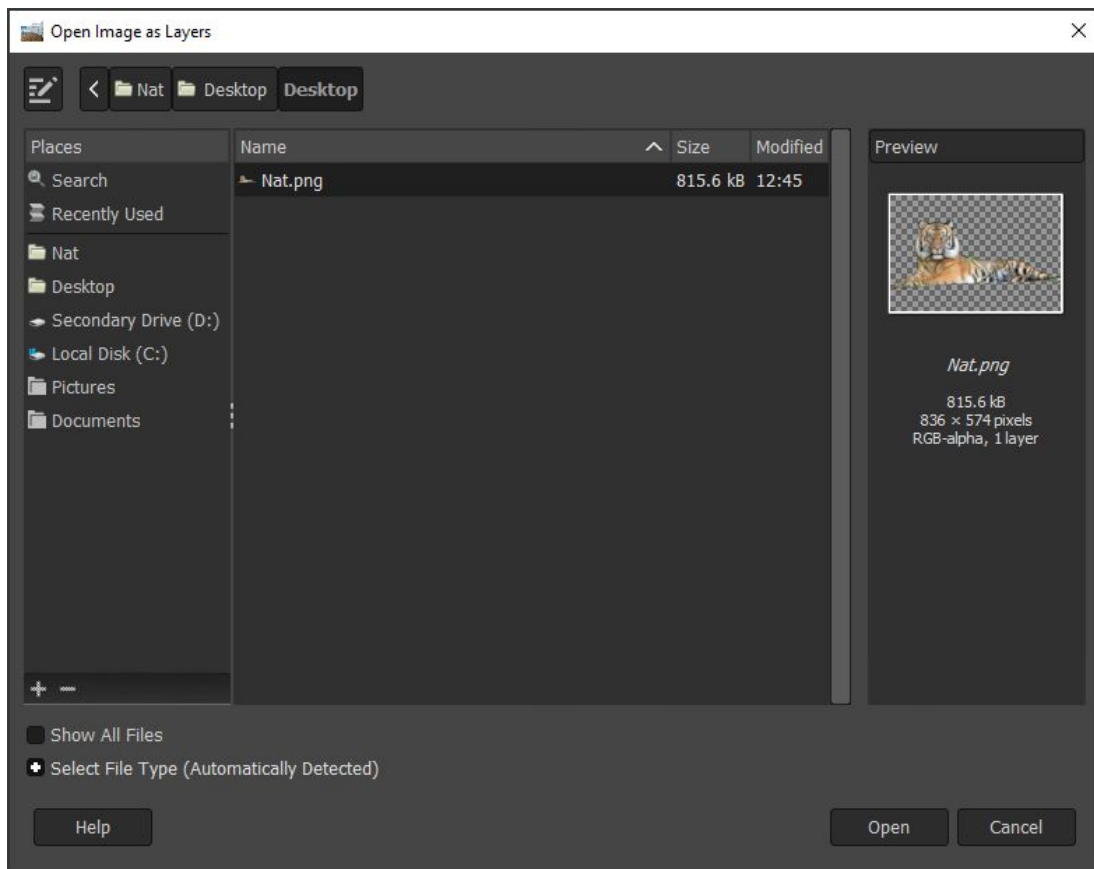
Resources → Activity #2 → Backgrounds

You should see photos of 'backgrounds' in this folder - things like sunsets and piers. Find an image that you like, and open it up by clicking the 'open' button.



Now let's open up your edited image on the new background you've chosen. To do this go to 'File' at the top left of the screen, then navigate to the 'Open as Layers' option. Find the edited object image that you've saved, then click 'Open'.

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You should now have your image inserted into a new background! If you would like to change your image in any way (ex. resizing or moving it), feel free to do so using either the GIMP tools sheet in the resources folder or by experimenting with the tools options.

