

## Digital Mandala Unit

**Background:** The word Mandala is Sanskrit, and it means a circle, both the center and circumference. It is a symbol of Life. Mandalas have appeared throughout history in all cultures and religions. They have been painted, constructed of wood, done up in mosaic tile, and virtually every other art form. They can be abstract, or geometric designs, symmetrical or asymmetrical. The images can be literal or symbolic. They can be monochrome or fully ablaze with color.

### Digital Technique:

1. Open Photoshop Elements and **BROWSE** for images. Pick an image, any

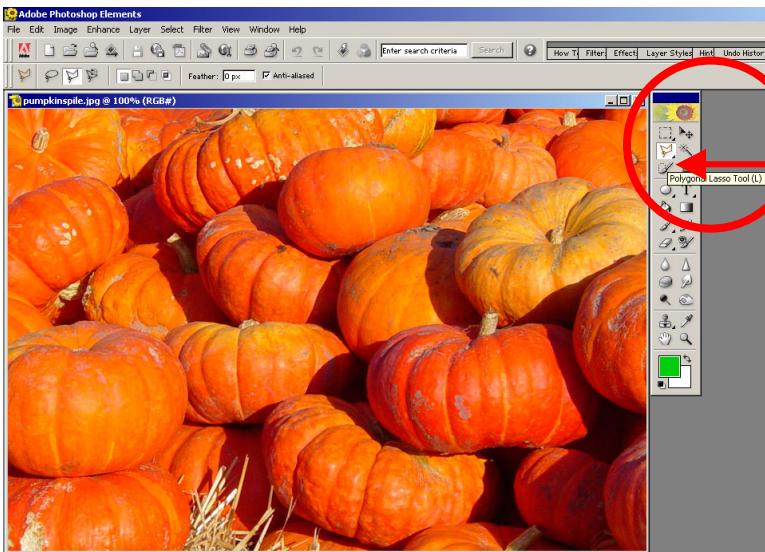
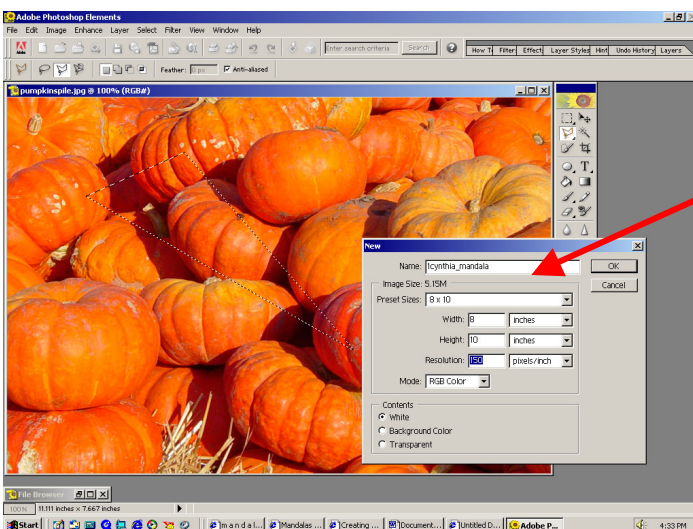


image. One with lots of color will work best.

2. With **Photoshop's angled-lasso tool** (the one that looks like the lasso, only with straight lines), select a triangle, any part of the image with some contrast is good. The longer and thinner it is, the better. Not too thin.

Experiment with this a bit.

3. Go to **EDIT --> COPY** to copy the selection.



4. Close the original image.
5. Go to **FILE --> NEW** with the **POP-UP** box give it a name; "yourname\_mandala" Pick the **PRESET SIZE** of 8" x 10" and the **RESOLUTION** of 150. Finally select **TRANSPARENT**.
6. Go to **EDIT --> PASTE** the triangle in, three times.

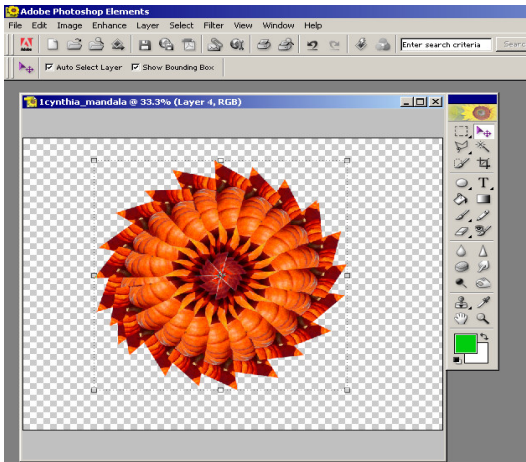
Updated 10/16/2004 Created by Cynthia Gaub for use in the classroom.

Information used from the following resources: [http://www.mandalaproject.org/Mandalas/index\\_new.html](http://www.mandalaproject.org/Mandalas/index_new.html);

<http://www.raywhiting.com/nature.html>; <http://www.abgoodwin.com/mandala/links/creating.html>; <http://www.moderngypsy.com/green/mandala/>

## Digital Mandala Unit

- Using **the Move tool** your mouse go to the CORNER of your picture until you see the curved arrow. Rotate and move your slice of image just far enough that the left side of your selection matches up to the right side of the first triangle you pasted.
- Repeat that for the third triangle you cut and pasted.

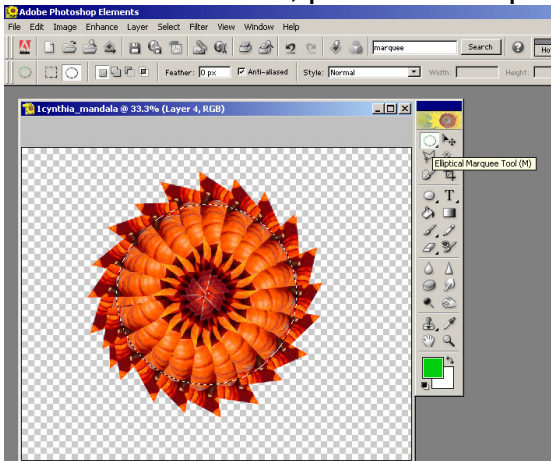


- Go to **LAYER --> MERGE VISIBLE** to make the three triangles into one unit.
- Go to **LAYER --> DUPLICATE LAYER** and hit OK past the dialog box.
- Then go back to **the MOVE tool** Rotate and move your slice of image again, to line up with the first set.
- Go to **LAYER --> MERGE VISIBLE** to make

the new triangles into one unit.

- Repeat # 7- 10 until you've got your triangles all the way around. It should make kind of a nifty little kaleidoscope pattern.

- Now, pick the Marquee tool (the rectangle symbol) and change it to the



**circular tool.**

- While holding down **SHIFT KEY** (to keep it a perfect circle) draw a circle on top of your slices. The purpose of this step is to even out your edges. If you LIKE the spiked edges, then draw your circle **BIGGER** than your entire piece.

- Once your circle is centered on your image **EDIT --> COPY** then go to **FILE --> NEW FROM**

**CLIPBOARD.**

- FILE --> SAVE AS** your new circle as "yourname\_mandala" In this Pop-up box be sure to select JPEG, and find the correct FOLDER to save in.

Updated 10/16/2004 Created by Cynthia Gaub for use in the classroom.

Information used from the following resources: [http://www.mandalaproject.org/Mandalas/index\\_new.html](http://www.mandalaproject.org/Mandalas/index_new.html);

<http://www.raywhiting.com/nature.html>; <http://www.abgoodwin.com/mandala/links/creating.html>; <http://www.moderngypsy.com/green/mandala/>