



Focus on Photography

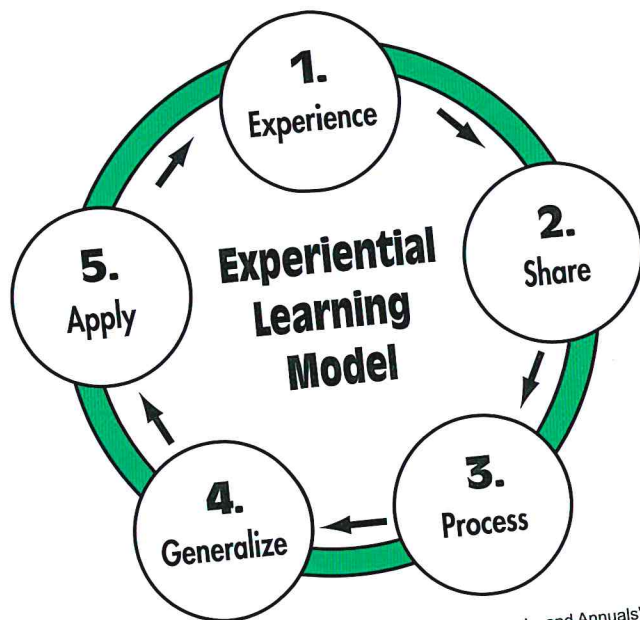
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Notes to the Project Helper

This 4-H project book is designed for youth to explore and complete under the guidance of a project helper. This can be a parent, relative, project leader, friend, or knowledgeable adult. The duties of this individual begin with helping the child create and carry out a project plan. This is followed by helping the child focus on each activity in his/her project plan, providing Support and Feedback for the learning taking place and conducting Debriefing sessions to determine what was done well, what could have been done differently, and where to go from here.

The information and activities contained in this book are arranged in a unique, experiential fashion (see model). In this way, youth are introduced to a particular practice, idea, or piece of information through an opening Photo Shoot (1) Experience. The results from the activity are then recorded in the accompanying pages. Following this, youth take the opportunity to (2) Share what they did with their Project Helper and (3) Process the experience through a series of questions allowing the learner to (4) Generalize, and (5) Apply the knowledge and skills gained. Project Helpers also provide encouragement for the learner to extend the experience by taking on one of the More Challenges provided at the end of each activity page.



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals" © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Project Helper Expectations

- Review the Learner Outcomes (Photography Skill, Life Skill, Educational Standard and Success Indicator) on the lower left-hand side of each activity to understand the learning taking place. Each activity in this book is tied to a specific National Education Standard for Arts Education. See the inside back cover for a summary of these standards along with the goals and outcomes for this project.
- Become familiar with the Background sections and Photo Shoot activities contained in this book. The background information is intended to enlighten the Project Helper as much as the learner. Stay ahead of the learner by trying out activities beforehand. When noted on an activity page, check out the Fast Facts information on the 4-H Photo Kids web page.
- Begin the project by helping the learner establish his/her plan for the project. This is accomplished by reviewing and completing pages 3-7.
- Conduct a debriefing session allowing the learner to answer Review Questions and share results. This will improve their understanding about what was learned from an experiential perspective and the particular life skill and photography skill that were practiced.
- Use the Photo Journal as a discussion tool to help the learner celebrate what was done well and to see what could be done differently. Allow them to become better at assessing their own work.

This block shows a collage of pages from the project book with red arrows pointing to specific sections:

- Photo Journal**: Points to the 'Photo Journal Flash for More Light' section.
- Background**: Points to the 'Background' section.
- Review Questions**: Points to the 'Review' section.
- Photo Shoot**: Points to the 'Photo Shoot' section.
- Photo Shoot (The Activity)**: Points to the 'Photo Shoot' section.
- Fast Facts**: Points to the 'Fast Facts' section.
- More Challenges**: Points to the 'More Challenges' section.



Fast Facts
www.4-HPhotography.org
 Project Support

- Date and initial the activities that have been completed on page 4 of their project plan.

Project Planning Guide

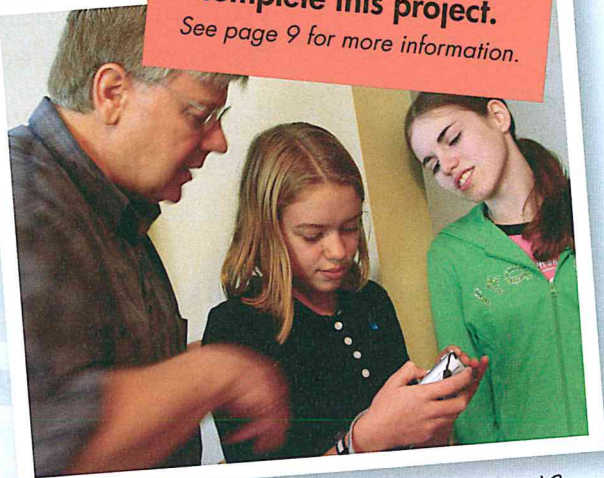
Take Note

You will need access to a film-based or digital camera to complete this project.

See page 9 for more information.

This beginning level project is designed for youth with no prior experience in photography. It can be completed as a stand-alone project or in connection with another 4-H area of interest.

Check your county's project and record-keeping guidelines (if any) for additional requirements. This is especially important if you want to participate in county project judging or prepare an exhibit for competition. (See page 72 for details.) This project may be repeated if you select activities that were not satisfactorily completed or attempted in previous years. The More Challenges activities, which are optional, are a good source of additional activities if you choose to repeat this project. They may also inspire you to take a companion project or plan a self determined project on such topics as scrapbooking or photo editing.



Need some help getting started?
ASK an adult or older youth photographer for ideas.

Your Project Guidelines

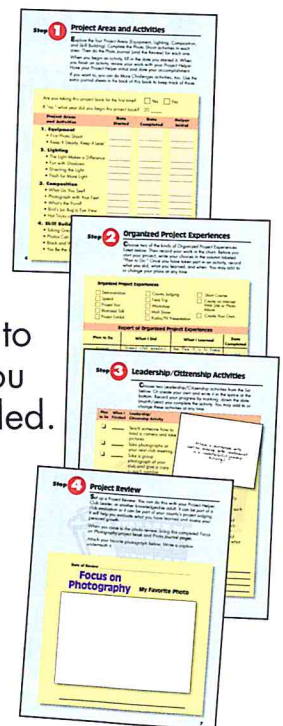
Complete the Planning Section of this Guide (Steps 1-4, pages 4-7).

Step 1 Explore each of the four Project Areas (Equipment, Lighting, Composition, and Skill Building) by completing all of the Photo Shoot activities in each area, along with the Photo Journal and Review sections.

As you complete your Photo Journal and Review Question pages, remember that they should reflect your best attempts to accomplish the activities. You can use the space any way you like, including layering your photos to fit in the space provided.

Take Note

If you would rather spread out your photos, you can remove the perforated pages in this book and put them into a three-ring binder. Add pages of your own or use the extra color-patterned pages after page 73.



Step 2 Take part in at least two Organized Project Experiences.

Step 3 Become involved in at least two Leadership/Citizenship Activities.

Step 4 Take part in a Project Review.

Optional: More Challenges activities and the online Fast Facts are optional.

Step

1

Project Areas and Activities

Explore the four Project Areas (Equipment, Lighting, Composition, and Skill Building). Complete the Photo Shoot activities in each area. Then do the Photo Journal (and the Review) for each one.

When you begin an activity, fill in the date you started it. When you finish an activity, review your work with your Project Helper. Have your Project Helper initial and date your accomplishment.

If you want to, you can do More Challenges activities, too. Use the extra journal sheets in the back of this book to keep track of those.

Are you taking this project book for the first time? Yes No

If "no," what year did you begin this project book? 20____

Project Areas and Activities	Date Started	Date Completed	Helper Initial
1. Equipment			
• First Photo Shoot	_____	_____	_____
• Keep It Steady, Keep It Level	_____	_____	_____
2. Lighting			
• The Light Makes a Difference	_____	_____	_____
• Fun with Shadows	_____	_____	_____
• Directing the Light	_____	_____	_____
• Flash for More Light	_____	_____	_____
3. Composition			
• What Do You See?	_____	_____	_____
• Photograph with Your Feet	_____	_____	_____
• What's the Point?	_____	_____	_____
• Bird's (or Bug's) Eye View	_____	_____	_____
• Hat Tricks and Magic	_____	_____	_____
4. Skill Building			
• Taking Great Photographs	_____	_____	_____
• Photos Can Tell the Story	_____	_____	_____
• Black and White	_____	_____	_____
• You Be the Judge	_____	_____	_____

Step 3

Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Choose two Leadership/Citizenship activities from the list below, or create your own and write it in the space at the bottom. Record your progress by marking down the date (month/year) you complete the activity. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

Plan to Do	When I Finished	Leadership/Citizenship Activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Teach someone how to load a camera and take pictures.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Take photographs at your next club meeting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Take a group photograph of your club and give a copy to each member.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Photograph your club's activities for the year and make an album or a display to share.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Help another member prepare for his or her photography project judging.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Volunteer to take photos for one of your other activities, such as your school, sports team, band, or choir.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Visit the local library and ask a librarian to help you find good books on photography. Display the books at a club meeting. Make a list of them for members to take home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Help someone in your community organize his or her old photographs. Help them write down information about what the photographs show.

(Attach a photograph with caption showing your involvement in a Leadership/Citizenship Activity.)

Plan your own activities here:

Step

4

Project Review

Set up a Project Review. You can do this with your Project Helper, Club Leader, or another knowledgeable adult. It can be part of a club evaluation or it can be part of your county's project judging. It will help you evaluate what you have learned and assess your personal growth.

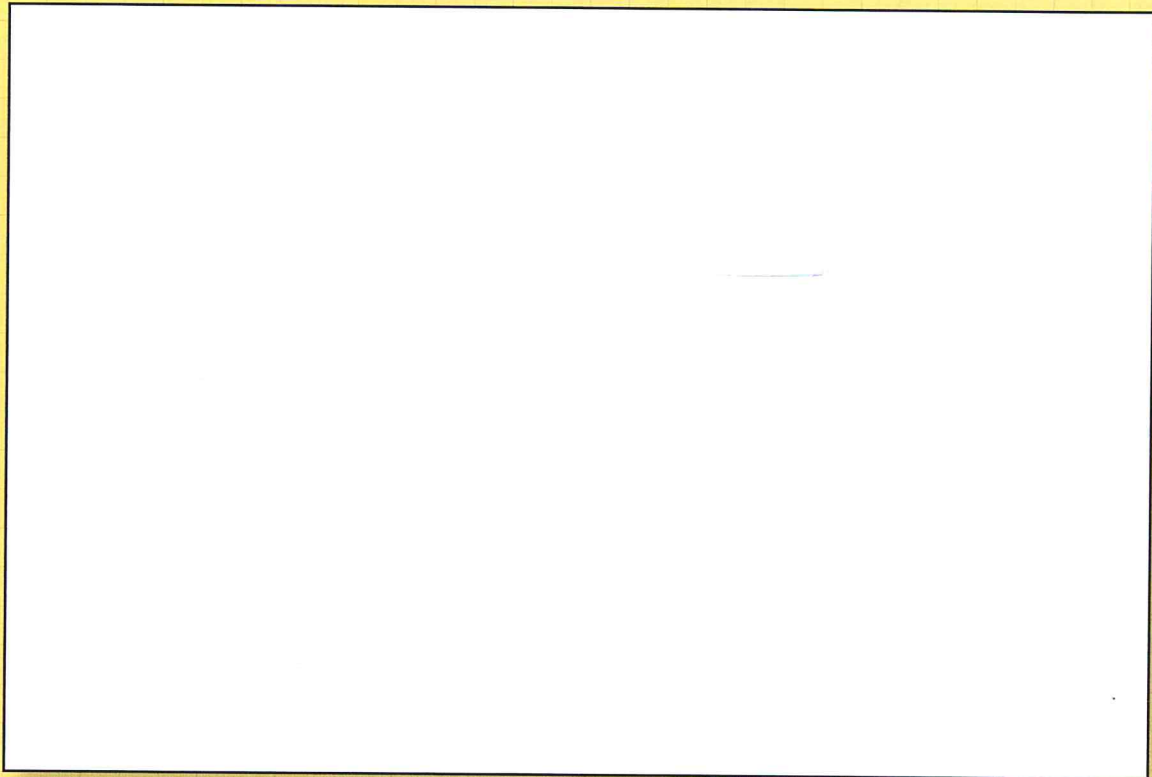
When you come to the photo review, bring this completed *Focus on Photography* project book and Photo Journal pages.

Attach your favorite photograph below. Write a caption underneath it.

Date of Review _____

Focus on Photography

My Favorite Photo

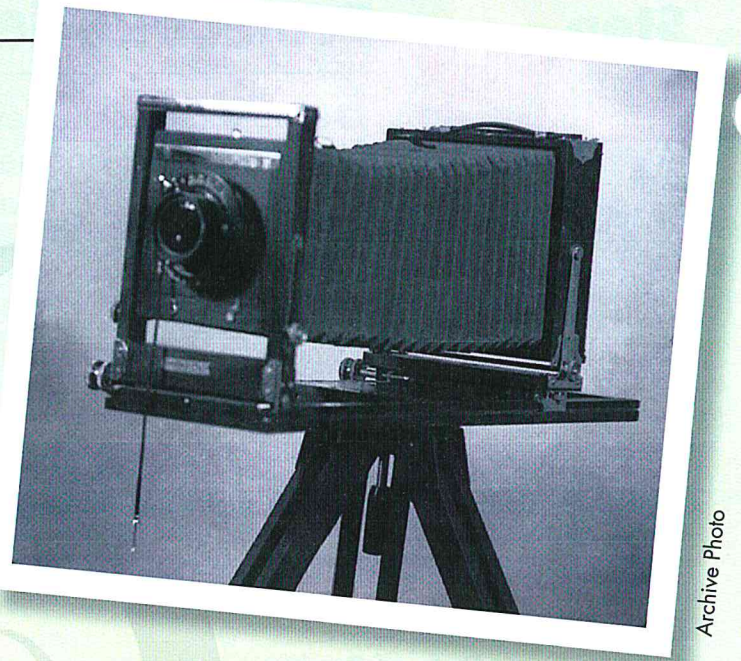


Introduction

Photography can seem like magic. In the blink of an eye, you can record what you're looking at. Imagine how amazing this must have been to the first people who used cameras!

Do you have any idea how long photography has been around? It's almost 200 years old! At first, though, few people took photographs. The equipment was heavy and hard to handle.

That changed when George Eastman invented paper roll film and the Kodak Brownie camera. It was small and lightweight and cost only a dollar. Suddenly everybody started taking pictures of their families, their communities, and the places they lived.



Archive Photo

Photography has changed a lot through the years. Some cameras are small enough to fit in a pocket. We have color film as well as black and white film. We have computerized cameras that don't use film at all.

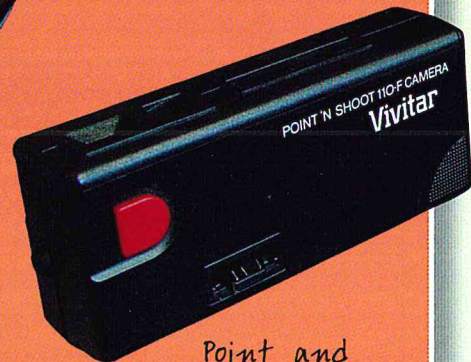
Some Kinds of Cameras



Digital camera



Camera phone



Point and shoot camera

Single lens reflex (SLR) camera



Another important change is that photography is now accepted as a form of art. In the beginning, some people said photos couldn't be art because it was so easy to take a photograph. Today, however, people know that it takes a lot of talent and practice to create really interesting photographs.

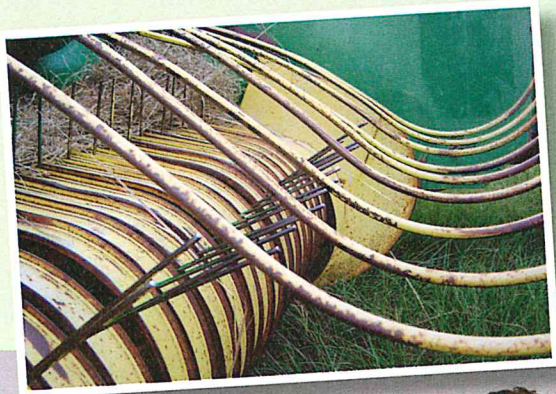


Photo by 2007 National 4-H Photography Contest Winner, Hudson Smith, IA



What is the difference between a snapshot and a work of art? You will explore that question in this book. You will also learn how to create strong compositions and make sure your lighting is right. You will learn how to take shots of moving things and night-time scenes. You will learn how to find interesting things to photograph.

So grab a camera. Get ready to take an exciting journey—one that you can enjoy for many years!

Before You Start

The better you get to know your camera, the better prepared you will be to take great pictures!

Cameras come in many shapes and sizes, but there are two basic kinds. Some record images on light-sensitive film. Some record digital images on memory cards. Both kinds (film and digital) are available in "point-and-shoot" models, as SLRs, (single lens reflex camera) and with or without video screens.

Someone in your family may have a camera you can use, or maybe you can buy a disposable one. Many grocery stores sell them. If you have a film camera, you may also need to buy film. Your project helper can help you decide which kind you need.

Study how your camera works. Read the owner's manual. Get tips from someone who knows about that kind of camera. Find out what your camera can and cannot do.

For example, a point-and-shoot camera has a "fixed focus" lens. That means it's hard to take sharp pictures of things that are very close or very far away. An SLR camera is more complicated, but you can change its focus. A digital camera lets you see your pictures right away, but it can use up batteries quickly. Other features to look for include lens types, exposure controls, camera flash and image resolution.

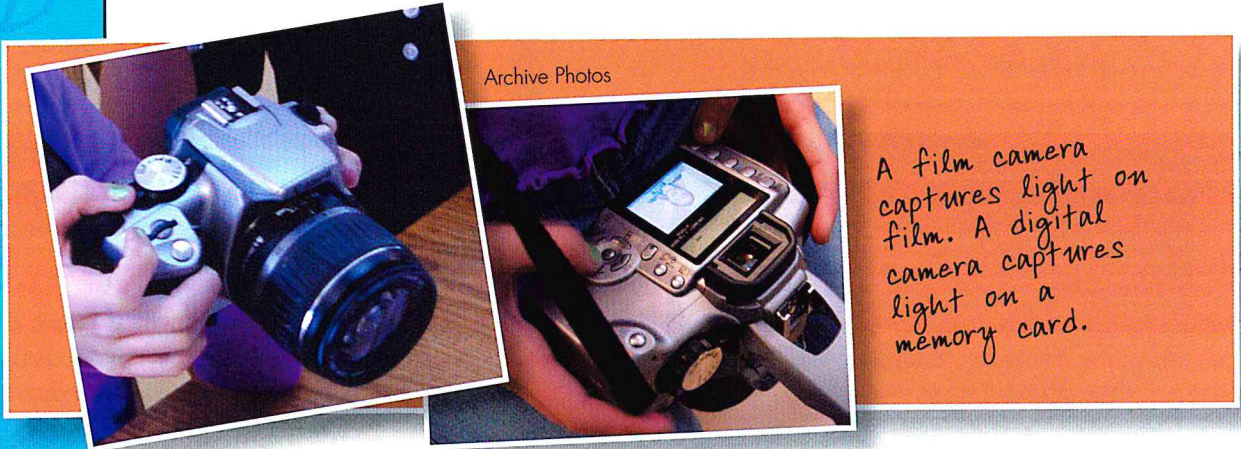
This symbol tells you how to find more information at the 4-H Photo Kids Project Online site, www.4-HPhotography.org. Check it out!



www.4-HPhotography.org

First Photo Shoot

One of the best ways to learn is to do. Start exploring your camera. Do you have a film camera or a digital camera? Get to know your camera and its parts. Then start taking pictures.



A film camera captures light on film. A digital camera captures light on a memory card.

Photo Shoot

- See how many of these parts your camera has.

<input type="checkbox"/> Body	<input type="checkbox"/> Lens	<input type="checkbox"/> Shutter	<input type="checkbox"/> Release button
<input type="checkbox"/> On/off button	<input type="checkbox"/> Viewfinder	<input type="checkbox"/> Video screen	
<input type="checkbox"/> Built-in flash	<input type="checkbox"/> Battery compartment		
- Get your camera ready to take pictures. Does it need film? What kind? Or does it use a memory card? See your manual and check with your Project Helper. Is there room on the memory card for the photos you will take? Are the batteries still charged or will you need new ones?
- Hold your camera with two hands.
 - Look through the viewfinder. Keep both eyes open.
 - Find the release button, the one that takes the photo. Point your camera at something interesting and push the button gently.
 - When you take a wide shot, it's called a landscape view. If you turn your camera on its side and take a tall photo, it's called a portrait view. Take a landscape and a portrait photo.
 - Move closer to your main subject and take a picture.
 - Now step farther away and take a photo. Continue to walk farther away, taking a photo every few steps. How do the photos change?
 - Take lots of pictures. Have them developed, if necessary, and printed. Then study them.

Learner Outcomes

Photography Skill:

Getting to know your camera

Life Skill:

Acquiring and evaluating information—Obtains information and validates outcomes

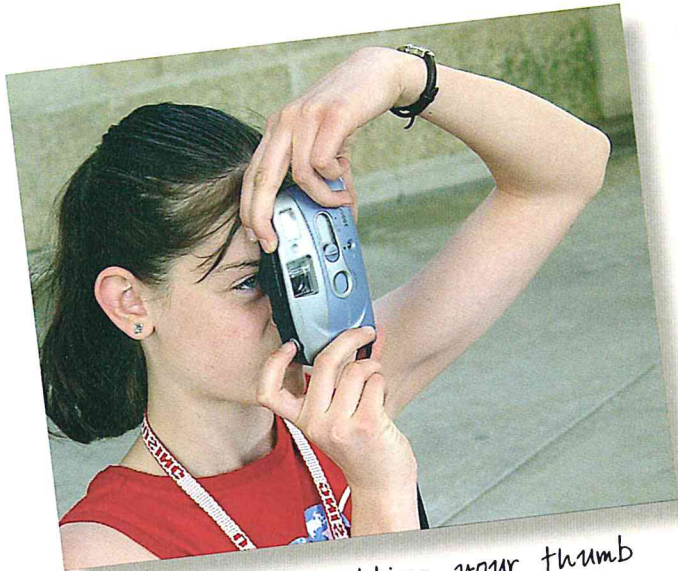
Educational Standard:

NA-VA.K-4.2—Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions

Success Indicator:

Identifies basic camera parts and takes first pictures

Background



Practice putting your thumb and fingers in the proper position.



Make sure your fingers are away from the lens and flash.

Photo by Nicole Cummings, 4H Youth Photographer



The steadier you hold the camera, the sharper your picture will be.

To take a photo, you let light into your camera. You won't get a picture, though, unless the light falls on something that can record it. Make sure you have film or a memory card in your camera before you begin shooting. There is nothing worse than taking a great picture and then discovering that you forgot to load your camera or that your memory card is full.

Sometimes you can have film in your camera and still not get a picture. If you don't load your film carefully, it may not go through the camera. Be careful about how you take it out, too. If you don't know how your camera works, you could end up ruining your pictures. Ask someone for help the first time.

After you take out your film or memory card, get your photos printed. People who have the right equipment can print them at home. Many people go to a drug store or photo developer. Ask your Project Helper to help you find a good place.

When you get your photos back, put the negatives in a safe place. Make a backup copy on a computer or on a CD if you have digital photos. Label things so you can find them easily. Write down information about them (my house, kittens) and the date.

More Challenges

- Find diagrams of a film camera and a digital camera. Compare their parts. How are they the same? How are they different?
- How big is the "world's largest camera"? How little is the "world's smallest camera"? What are they used for?

Photo Journal

First Photo Shoot

Display five of your photos—with your notes on ways to improve each photo.

Review

with Your Project Helper

Share what you did

- What did you learn about your camera?
- Where did you take photos?

Process

- What did you like best about taking pictures?
- What was the hardest thing about taking photographs?

Generalize

- What do you need to do to make sure your equipment works well? To protect it from being damaged or lost?

Apply

- When you take lots of pictures, it can be hard to remember who was in the photos, where you took them, and other important things. What are some easy ways to keep track of that information? Which one will you use?
- In what other hobbies or jobs is it important to check your equipment before you use it?



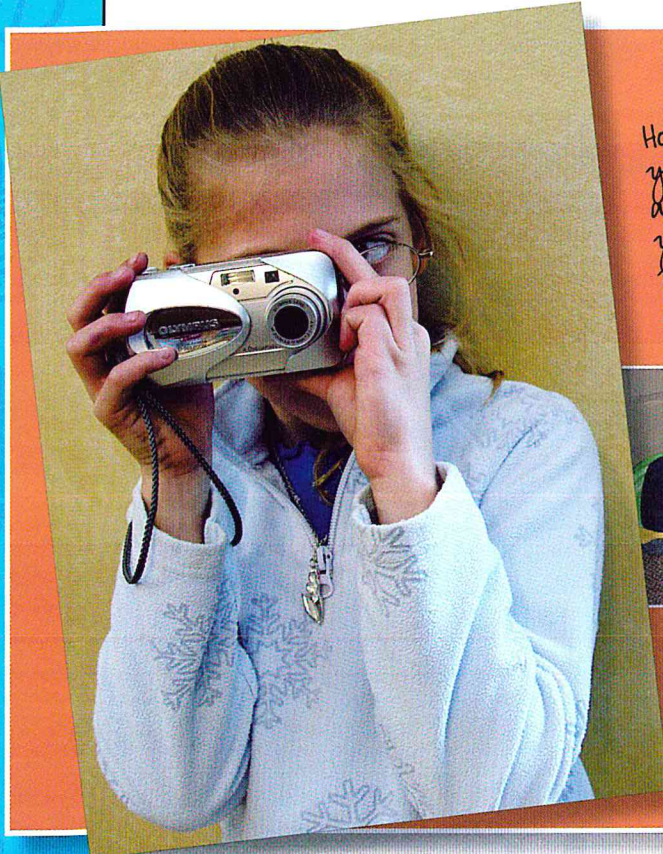
Fast Facts

www.4-HPhotography.org

Tips for Storing Photos

Keep It Steady, Keep It Level

What can you do to get sharp pictures? Practice some ways to keep the camera steady and level.



Hold your arms against your sides and the camera against your face. When your camera is steady, your pictures will be sharper.

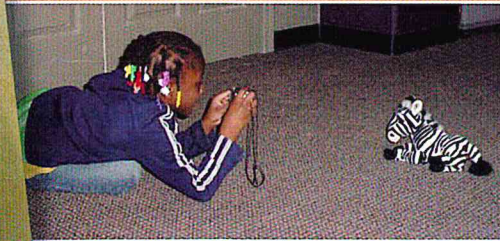


Photo by Andrew Flood, 4-H Youth Photographer

Use your elbows as braces. This will hold your camera steady.

Learner Outcomes

Photography Skill:

Using tripods and bracing to keep the camera steady and level

Life Skill:

Reasoning—Applies reasoning skills to solve problems

Educational Standard:

NA-VA.K-4.1—Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques, and Processes

Success Indicator:

Practices different holding techniques to improve results

Photo Shoot

Take photos of objects that do not move. Find a bicycle, a garden, or some stuffed animals.

1. Hold the camera in landscape mode using both hands. Find a horizontal line in your scene. Is it parallel with the top or bottom of your viewfinder? If not, move your camera so the picture is level.
2. Now make sure the camera doesn't move when you take your picture. This is especially important when there isn't a lot of light. Use one of the techniques on page 15. Or use a table, the top of a low wall, or the hood of a parked car. Use the method described above to make sure your camera is level.
3. Find other braces (fence, tree, side of building, or garage). Brace yourself and your camera and squeeze the shutter button gently.

Tips

How to Know Your Dominant Eye

Did you know that one of your eyes is more powerful than the other? To find it, point your finger at a distant object. Don't move your finger or your head. Close one eye and note how much your finger shifts to the left or to the right. Now, open that eye and close the other. Again note the shift. With which eye did your finger move the least? That's your dominant eye. Why is that important to know? Because when you take photos, you want to keep both eyes open but use your dominant eye to look through the viewfinder.

To take a photo, you let light into your camera. You won't get a picture, though, unless the light falls on something that can record it. Make sure you have film or a memory card in your camera before you begin shooting. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to take a great photo and discovering that you forgot to load your camera with film or that your memory card is full.

If you don't load your film properly, or are careless when you take your exposed film out of the camera, you might not get pictures either. So, ask your helper for advice when you load and unload film in your camera for the first time.

When you've captured images on film or on a memory card, you're ready to process the film or download the digital images so you can print them. If you have the right equipment, you can print them at home. Most people go to a photo developer or printer at a drug store, department store, or camera store. Ask your helper to help you find a good place.

When you get your photos back, put the negatives in a safe place. Remember to label the envelope with the subject and the date that you took the photos. If you have digital photos, make a backup copy on a computer or on a disc. Label your files so you can find them again when you want them.

Photos by Amina Sanginova, 4-H Youth Photographer



This is a nice portrait, but it's a little blurry. The camera moved.



A steady camera will produce sharper results.

More Challenges

- Take two pictures of a friend, one using the wide "landscape" position and one using the tall "portrait" one. Compare. Which works better?
- Take a level picture of a tall tree. Now tilt the camera more and more as you take several pictures. It will look like the tree is "tipping." Ask friends how that makes them feel.

Photo Journal

Keep it Steady, Keep it Level

Display six of your best photos, showing "right and wrong" ways to use your camera.

- 1.** Photos 1 and 2: The camera is held steady and the camera is not held steady.
- 2.** Photos 3 and 4: The camera is level and the camera is not level.
- 3.** Photos 5 and 6: Comparing "landscape" view and a "portrait" view.

Need more room for your photos?