

Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

A Faculty Exploratory/Knowledge Navigation Center Workshop

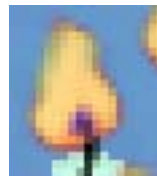
Introduction

Adobe Illustrator is a graphic editing program well-suited to creating graphics from scratch. It is significantly different from many other graphics programs because it deals primarily with **vector graphics**. Most people are more familiar with bitmap (raster) graphics, such as what PhotoShop produces.

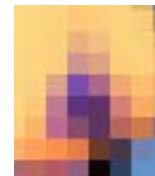
Bitmap graphics: saved using a grid full of tiny squares called pixels. Bitmap images are good for continuous and/or irregular shadings and colors (such as in photographs), but do not resize well.



100%



300%



800%

Vector graphics: saved using points and lines (vectors) to describe shapes and objects. The resulting file is made up of lines and patches of color. Generally much smaller files than bitmap graphics. When vector images are resized, there is no loss of quality.



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When to Use Illustrator

Types of documents you might choose Illustrator to create:

Single-page document juxtaposing text and images – a handout for a class; a poster for a conference.

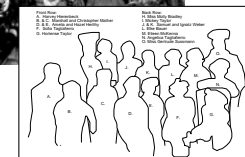
Simple line art; logos, buttons, and other images with clear areas of solid color.

Maps and diagrams.



Why to Use Illustrator

It may be difficult to convince yourself to spend the amount of time necessary to learn Illustrator, when similar work can be done in Photoshop. However, for many images, especially of the types listed above, Illustrator produces a **MUCH** smaller file, that looks better on screen *and* prints much more clearly than a similar document created in Photoshop!



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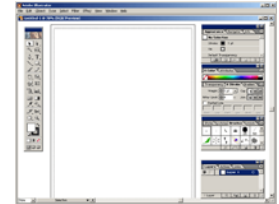
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Getting Started: The Workspace





Like most Adobe products, Illustrator makes use of a Toolbox and several Palettes. The Toolbox appears to the left of your Illustrator workspace, while most Palettes appear to the right.



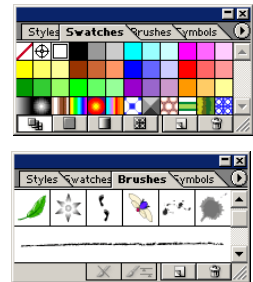
Toolbox

The Toolbox contains tools that allow you to create, edit, and view your files. **Any tool icon that has a small, black arrow in the lower right corner actually contains several related tools.** Click-and-hold on a tool icon to see all the related tools.

Your document appears front-and-center in the Illustrator workspace. You will find it very useful to know how to zoom in and out on sections of your document. Select the Zoom tool () and click once anywhere on your document to zoom in. To zoom out, *Alt*-click (PC) or *Option*-click with the Zoom tool. Click and drag with the Zoom tool to show extreme detail. Finally, to return to your original view, double-click on the Hand tool () , next to the Zoom tool.

Palettes

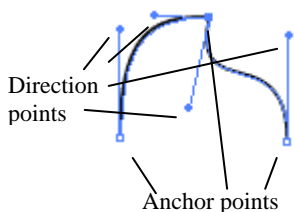
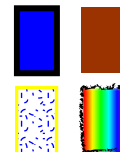
You'll soon get acquainted with several important Illustrator palettes. Many of the palettes (such as Swatches and Brushes, shown at right) share a single window. You may have to click a tab within a palette box to show the particular palette you wish to use. To show or hide any palette, go to the Window menu, and choose the palette by name from the pull-down list.



Illustrator Concept: Paths



When you create artwork in Illustrator, you do so by drawing lines and shapes that combine to form a whole picture. Each item you create is called an **object**. For each object, there is an outline, called a **path**, made up of points and lines (see example at left.) Each shape you create can have a **fill** (filling in the space inside the path) and a **stroke** (tracing the path). At right are a few examples of that rectangle with different fills and strokes. Note that you may choose to use no stroke (as at upper right) to fill with a **pattern** (lower left) or a **gradient** (lower right), and even to use special **brushes** on the stroke (lower right).



If a line changes direction at a point, it may do so either as a **corner point** (as in the rectangle above) or as a **smooth point**. Smooth points and corner points are both used to create curved lines and shapes, and consist of an **anchor point** (the white boxes we have already seen), and one or more **direction points** (indicated by slightly smaller circles). The shape of a curve is determined by the angle and distance of the direction points.






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Getting Started: Basic Drawing

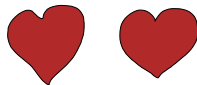
Shape Tools



The easiest thing to draw in Illustrator is an enclosed shape, such as a rectangle, ellipse, or polygon. Click the Shape tool (usually set to Rectangle ) to begin drawing, or select another shape: Rounded Rectangle () , Ellipse () , Polygon () , or Star () .

To draw the shape, just click and drag on your workspace. Thin lines will appear indicating the outline of your shape, and the shape will be completed when you release the mouse button. **Note:** holding down the *Shift* key as you draw a Rectangle or Ellipse will restrict you to a perfect square or circle!


Pencil Tools


Use the Pencil tool () to create free-flowing lines and shapes. As you draw, a thin lines will appear indicating the outline of your shape, and the shape will be completed when you release the mouse button.

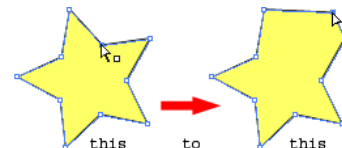
 Re-tracing an existing shape with the Pencil tool to redraw sections of the line, or the whole thing. At left, an original heart, and a version revised with the Pencil tool.

 Alternatively, you can use the Smooth tool () to automatically smooth zigs and zags out of your lines. At left, a freehand-drawn line, and a version revised with the Smooth tool. The Smooth tool is located under the Pencil tool in your toolbox. Click-and-hold on the Pencil tool to see the icon for the Smooth tool.

Selection Tools

Once you have created an object, the Selection tool () lets you select the entire object for further manipulation.

The Direct-Selection tool () lets you select parts of an object, individual anchor points, direction points, and segments. Use the Direct-Selection tool to “morph” shapes, or to adjust direction points.



Exercise – Drawing with Shapes, Pencil, and Selection Tools

1. Draw a basic square, then see how many of these shapes you can replicate, using only the Pencil and Direct-Selection tools.



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Getting Started: Changing Object Properties

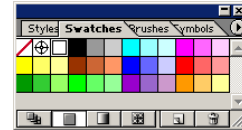
Colors

The colors your shapes take on are determined by the colors selected in the Stroke and Fill area of your Toolbox. Remember, **Stroke** refers to the outline (path) of your object, **Fill** refers to the color filling in that outline.



To change Stroke or Fill color:

1. Click on the Stroke or Fill icon to bring it to the forefront.
2. Find the Swatches Palette. Click the color you want to use.
3. To use no color at all, select the None button (☐) either under the Stroke and Fill controls, or in the colors palette. Applying None to Stroke will give you a patch of color with no bordering line. Applying None to Fill will give you a line with no fill color (this setting is frequently used with the Pencil tool).



If an object is selected at the time that you change stroke and fill colors, the changes will be applied to that object. If no object is selected, the next object that you draw will have these properties.

Making New Color Choices

The colors in the default Swatches Palette are fairly limited, but you can select new colors.



Double-click on a color in the Stroke/Fill area to access the Color Picker. Adjust the slider in the “rainbow” bar to choose the hue you want, then pick the desired shade from the large box. You can enter numerical color values (from a web page, or other digital image) in the text boxes.

You can add your new color to your swatches, for easy re-use. Simply click the New Swatch icon (☐) in the Swatches palette. To remove a color from your Swatches, click on that swatch, then click the Trash icon (☐).

Color Gradients

A **gradient** mixes two or more colors together in the fill area of an object. If only solid color swatches are visible, click the Gradient Swatches button (☐) to view gradients.

To apply a gradient, select the object, and click on the swatch for the gradient you want to use. Once a gradient has been applied, use the Gradient Tool (☐) and Gradient Palette (located under the Stroke Palette) to modify the gradient – changing it from linear to radial, and changing the direction and length of the transitions from one color to another.

If you particularly like a modification you have made to a gradient, click on the gradient box in the Gradient Palette, and drag it to the Swatches Palette. A new swatch will be created for your gradient.

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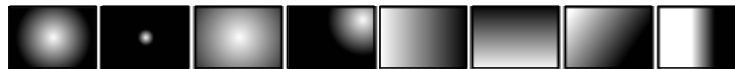
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Exercise: Applying Colors and Gradients

1. Create a new color. Add it to your Swatches Palette
2. Draw a shape. Copy and paste it several times. Try to replicate the following versions of the object:
 - a. regular stroke and fill
 - b. new color stroke, no fill
 - c. colored fill, no stroke
 - d. gradient fill, new color stroke
3. Draw a new shape. Fill it with a simple two-color gradient (■ or ■). Use the Gradient Tool and Gradient Palette to replicate these variations:



Strokes

In addition to the color of a line, you can also change several other properties. The Stroke Palette lets you change a number of things about your Stroke:

Weight: how thick your line appears

Cap: how the ends of your line appear

Join: how your line joins at corners

Miter Limit: how far the joined lines project at corners

Dashed Line: check this box to create a dashed line. In the boxes below, specify how long each dash should be, and how long the gaps between dashes should be.



Brushes

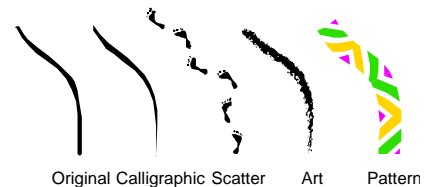
Brushes can be applied to the stroke of any object, to significantly change the appearance of the line. There are four basic types of brushes.

Calligraphic: makes your lines resemble those drawn with a calligraphy pen

Scatter: scatters copies of an object along your line

Art: stretches a single copy of an object along your line

Pattern: applies a repeating pattern to your line



You can create new brushes yourself, when you become more familiar with Illustrator.

Styles

Styles are similar to brushes, but change the stroke, fill, and special effects of your objects. Select an object, and choose a Style from the Styles Palette (located with Swatches) to see the radical changes. If you find a combination of stroke and fill effects that you like and want to use again, select an object on your workspace, and drag it to the Styles Palette to create your own new Style!

NOTE: any new swatches, styles, or brushes you create are saved only within your document. To re-use with a new document, drag and drop from an old document to a new one!

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Transforming Objects

You've already seen how the Direct-Selection Tool can be used to move individual points of an object. There are also several built-in options for transforming objects. The two easiest options are the **Transform** menu and the Transform Tools. To use the basic Transform Tools, select an object, then the tool.

Rotate – dragging with the Rotate Tool rotates the object around a point; by default, the center point. You can move the point of rotation, by clicking before you begin dragging. Hold down the shift key to rotate in 15-degree increments.

Reflect – click once, then again in a different location to indicate a line over which to reflect the object.

Scale – drag to resize the object. Hold down the shift key to maintain original proportions.

Shear – drag to skew the object. Hold down the shift key to stick to 15-degree increments.

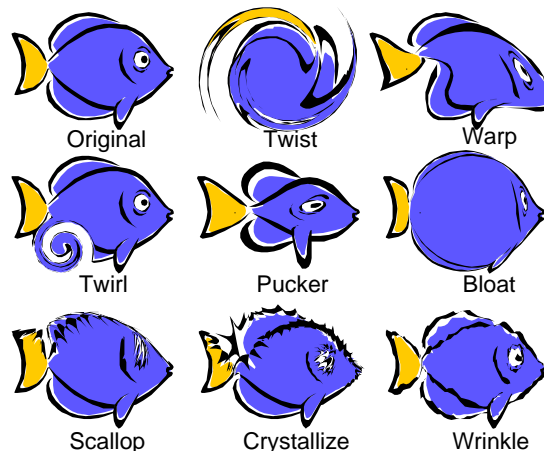
Free Transform – can scale, skew, or rotate the object, depending on where you click.

To apply transformations to an object using the menus, select the object, then go to **Object > Transform** on the menu. The advantage of the menus is that numeric values can be specified – Scale 150%, Rotate 32°, etc.

Liquify Tools

A number of tools are available to “liquify” your objects. When using these tools, objects become malleable, like wet paint. Experiment with these tools to find out what they do. All are located under the Warp Tool, except the Twist Tool (which is under the Rotate Tool.)

Take special notice of the Warp Tool, which lets you re-shape an object freehand, as if it were an image on a piece of silly putty!






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Advanced Drawing

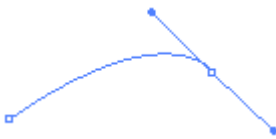
Line and Pen Tools

The Line Segment Tool () and Arc Tool () are useful for adding details to your image. The Line Segment Tool draws straight lines – hold down the shift key while dragging to restrict the line to 15-degree angles of rotation. The Arc Tool draws curved lines – a quarter of an ellipse.

Far more useful, but also more difficult to use, is the Pen Tool ()

Click multiple times in your document with the Pen Tool to create a freehand polygon shape. Each new click defines a new anchor point in the polygon. As you near the point where you began the shape, the cursor will change, indicating it is ready to complete the shape by adding a small closed circle at lower right (). When you see this “close” cursor, you can click once to close the shape.

When you click to add a new anchor point with the Pen Tool, you may choose to click and drag instead of clicking once. This turns a sharp corner into a smoothly curved one.



The Pen Tool is very useful for creating freehand smooth curves. You can combine single-click anchor points (sharp corners) with click-and-drag anchor points (smooth corners) to create complex shapes that are more precise than freehand Pencil drawing.



Exercise: Drawing with Line and Pen Tools

1. Use the Line and Arc tools to draw a simple face, as below. Remember, you can change stroke weights and colors.



2. Remove some of the arcs from the face drawing, and replace them with more complex curves using the Pen tool.



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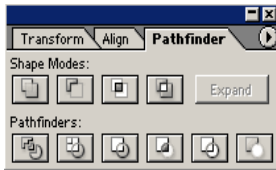
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Complex Objects

Sometimes you want to draw an object that cannot be created with one single action. Conveniently enough, Illustrator lets you group and join objects into more complex objects.

Grouping is the simplest way to make two or more objects behave as one. Simply select one object, then hold down the *Shift* key as you click on one (or several) more object(s), until you have selected everything you want in the group. Then go to the **Object** menu, and select **Group**. All lines and fills are preserved in a Group, and individual component objects can be selected with the Direct-Selection tool.

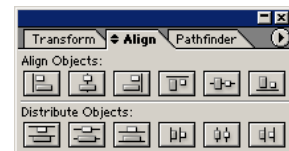


For more complex effects, you may wish to use the **Pathfinder**. This Palette generally is not shown by default, so go to the **Window** menu to turn it on.

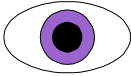


The most useful thing you can do with the Pathfinder is to add shapes together, or subtract one shape from another. To add shapes, select two shapes, and click on the Add to shape area button () . You will see the two shapes become one. To subtract one shape from another, select both (making sure that the shape you want to take away is on top!) and click on the Subtract from shape area button () .

When using these Pathfinder buttons, the original two shapes are still preserved, and can be selected with the Direct-Selection tool. To make your Pathfinder changes *permanent*, select the changed objects, and click the Expand button.

In the same window as the Pathfinder, you'll find the Align palette. You can use buttons in this palette to align multiple objects to the leftmost, rightmost, topmost, or bottom-most point in the group; or to align objects to their common vertical or horizontal center. There are also buttons to distribute objects evenly across an area, through their left, right, top, bottom, and vertical and horizontal center points.



Exercise: Grouping, Joining, Aligning, and Distributing Objects

1. Create an eye made up of multiple ellipses grouped together. You can use Align to easily line up the centers of the objects. 
2. Combine a star and five circles to make a stunning old-style Sheriff's badge! 
3. Subtract one circle from another to create a crescent moon. 
4. Align a rectangle and a rounded rectangle to create a "computer monitor". Group the two objects, then copy the group and paste three new copies into your document. Align these grouped objects, and distribute them evenly along the line.



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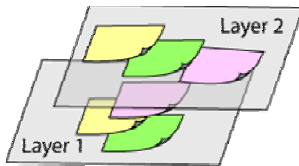
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Illustrator Concept – Objects and Layers

Objects and Layers

Like Photoshop, Illustrator allows you to create **Layers** within your document. Think of each layer as a sheet of transparency paper. Multiple layers stack on top of each other, and you can control that stacking order in the Layers Palette.

Illustrator Layers work a little bit differently than Photoshop Layers. Each shape or line that you draw is considered an **Object**. Each object is associated with a layer in your document.



Think of the objects you draw as Post-It notes stuck to a transparency (the layer). You can move those Post-It notes around, and you can rearrange their stacking order. Any object in a higher layer is automatically above any object in a lower layer. Within one layer, objects may be rearranged as well.

To change the stacking order of an object within a layer:

1. Select the object.
2. Under the **Object** menu, choose **Arrange**. On the pulldown menu, select an option:
 - a. **Bring to Front/Send to Back** – brings the currently selected object to the top of all the objects on the layer, or sends it all the way to the bottom.
 - b. **Bring Forward** – brings the currently selected object one level up in the layer
 - c. **Send Backward** – sends the currently selected object one level down in the layer.

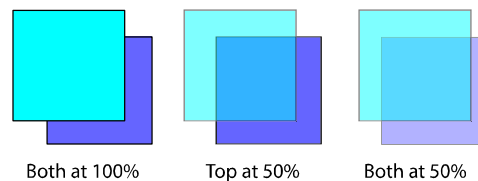
Bring to Front	Ctrl+Shift+]
Bring Forward	Ctrl+]
Send Backward	Ctrl+[
Send to Back	Ctrl+Shift+[

Opacity of Objects and Layers

Each Layer can vary 100% opaque (solid), to 0% opaque (completely see-through; thus, invisible) with any amount of transparency in between. Individual objects within a layer may also be more or less opaque. Objects that are not 100% opaque will add together in opacity – thus, if you have two black objects that are each at 50% opacity, the area where they overlap will be 100% black.

To change opacity of a layer, click on the small circle to the right of the layer name in the Layers Palette. Then change the Opacity setting in the Transparency Palette.

To change opacity for a single object, simply select the object and adjust its Opacity in the Transparency Palette.



Both at 100%

Top at 50%

Both at 50%

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Text in Illustrator

To insert a short piece of text in Illustrator, simply select the Type Tool (**T**), click where you want the text to appear, and start typing. The text will be entered as a separate object.

To enter vertical text, choose the Vertical Type Tool (**⌈T**), then click and type.

To change text attributes, access the Type Palette or use the **Type** menu. With the Type Tool selected, highlight the text you want to change, then make changes in the palette or on the menu.

For longer pieces of text, you should begin by defining a text box. Select the Type Tool, then click and drag on the Workspace to define the box. If you start by defining a text box, your text will wrap to the width of the box. You can then re-size the box, and the text will wrap to the new box size.

If you do not start by defining your own text box, Illustrator creates one for you, but with more permanent boundaries. Illustrator-defined textboxes, when resized, will actually resize the individual letters, and will not re-wrap the text.

Fit my text inside this box	Fit my text inside this box
Fit my text inside this box	Fit my text inside this box
Fit my text inside this box	Fit my text inside this box
Original	Original
Fit my text inside this box	Fit my text inside this box
Fit my text inside this box	Fit my text inside this box
Wrapped	Squished

Text boxes of either type can be freely re-sized, just by using the Selection Tool.

Note: fonts used in an Illustrator document can only be displayed correctly when the viewer has those fonts installed on their computer. If working on more than one computer, you may have to carry font files on a disk with your Illustrator file.

Colors and Text

By default, text that you enter in Illustrator has only a fill color assigned. Select a text box with the Selection Tool, and you can change that fill color, and can add a stroke color to outline your text. Try stroking text with a dashed line!



The image shows three instances of the text "Whoo hoo!". The first is yellow with a blue outline. The second is blue with a yellow outline. The third is black with a white outline.

Placing Text from a Word Processor

Illustrator is not great as a word-processing tool. For longer pieces of text, do your editing in a word processing program such as Word, and then bring the text into Illustrator. For medium-length text, you can just cut from Word and paste into a text box in Illustrator. Longer documents can be “placed” into Illustrator in their entirety – go to **File > Place**, and select your text file to place it on the page.

Illustrator Text Effects

Illustrator can do many things with text that other programs cannot do easily. You can wrap text around the outside of an object, fit text inside an object, or type along a curved line.

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Wrapping around an object





You can wrap text around any object. Make sure that the object you want to wrap around is above the text you want to wrap (you may need to select the object and bring it to the front). Then select both the text and the object, and go to the menu and choose **Type > Wrap > Make**.

Fitting inside an object

To fit text inside an object, you must use the Area Type Tool ( or ). First, draw the object. Then select the Area Type Tool, and click on the object's path (note: the path is the line around most objects, so clicking in the center of the object doesn't work – click right on the edge of the object.) A type cursor will appear inside your path. Start typing, or paste type from another source.



Path Type

Use the Path Type Tool ( or ) to type along any path you have drawn. You can type along a curved line you've drawn with the pencil, or along the outline of a shape you created.



First, draw the object you want to type along. Then select the Path Type Tool, and click on the path. Then start typing, or paste text from another source.

Saving Your Illustrator Files

As with all programs, remember to save frequently as you work. The standard file format for Illustrator is the Adobe Illustrator (.ai) file. Work saved as an .ai file can be re-opened in Illustrator with full editing capabilities. All objects, layers, styles, color and gradient swatches, etc. are saved for an .ai file.

When you are done with your artwork, you may choose to save it in other formats as well.

Use **File > Save As** to create these types of files:

Adobe PDF – great for sharing documents online

Illustrator EPS – a useful format for sharing with professional printers

Use **File > Export** to create these types of files:

WMF – the format of Office Clipart. Preserves vector formatting, can be re-sized smoothly

JPEG, Photoshop, TIFF – converts document to bitmap graphic (of varying quality)

Use **File > Save for Web** to create these types of files:

GIF – a very good web format for most Illustrator files

JPEG – another web format, you may want to use if you make extensive use of gradients.

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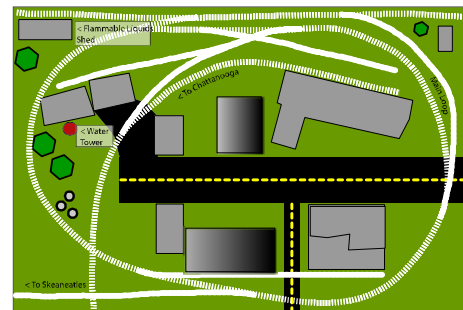
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Final Project: Creating a Map

This exercise gives you a chance to put together all the concepts covered above in “Basic Drawing”. You’ve already got enough knowledge to create a spectacular map!

1. In a blank Illustrator document, go to the **File** menu, and select **Place...**
2. Navigate to the file called “trainyard.jpg”, and click *Place*. The image should appear in your document.
3. Select the Zoom tool and zoom in on one of the buildings.
4. Shapes
 - a. Use the Rectangle tool to roughly outline the buildings. Change the fill and line color of your rectangle to match the building color. **Note:** you can use the Rotate tool to turn your rectangles so that they match the angled buildings in the picture.
 - b. Use the Ellipse tool to trace the gray fuel tanks and red water tower at left.
 - c. Use the Polygon or Star tools to trace over a few important trees. **Note:** To add or remove sides from a polygon or points from a star, use the up and down arrow keys *while you are creating the shape*.
5. Lines
 - a. Use the Pencil tool to trace some of the train tracks, with a white line, 8 pts wide (no fill).
 - b. Select the *Dashed Line* checkbox, and enter “2 pt” in the first two boxes
 - c. Trace the main road with a wide solid black line. Duplicate that line and change the properties of the duplicate line to narrow, dashed, and yellow, and use the Selection tool or the Align palette to place it on top of the original “road”.
6. Labels
 - a. Use the Type tool to add some labels to the buildings. Find fill and stroke colors that make the words visible.
 - b. Draw some paths that follow next to the train tracks, and use the Path Type tool to create curved labels for the various tracks.
7. Ground
 - a. Draw a large Rectangle that covers all the rest of your map elements. Fill it with an appropriately earth-like color, and make sure it has no outline.
 - b. Select the rectangle, go to Object > Arrange > Send to Back.
8. Select the photo, and delete it. Your map is done!



The Faculty Exploratory and KNC are located on the second floor of the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.
exploratory@umich.edu | <http://www.lib.umich.edu/exploratory> | (734) 647-7406.
knc-info@umich.edu | <http://www.lib.umich.edu/knc> | (734) 647-5836

Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

A Faculty Exploratory/Knowledge Navigation Center Workshop

Additional Use for Illustrator

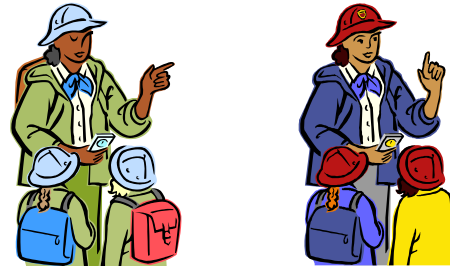
Editing Existing Vector Art

Found some clipart that's almost, but not quite, what you want? You can edit it in Illustrator!

First, insert the clipart image into an Office document. Then select the image, and copy it (**Edit > Copy**). Open a new Illustrator document and paste in the clipart (**Edit > Paste**). Use the Direct-Selection tool to select individual items in the picture, and change their color, shape, etc.

When finished, save a copy of your artwork as an Illustrator document, and then **File > Export** a copy as a Windows MetaFile (a good format for use with Office). You can also use this method to produce a jpeg or gif file for Web use.

Remember, some clipart is approved for non-commercial uses – but if you are engaged in profit-making activities, you need to hire your own graphic designer to create graphics from scratch!



Original Office Clipart

Edited in Illustrator