

## ILLUSTRATOR 3: FUN STUFF

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Illustrator is full of awesomeness when it comes to coloring images. The steps below take you through the process of tracing a black-and-white image and then adding color to it.

Using Image Trace, you can import a bitmap artwork (e.g., drawing, photograph) and convert it into a vector artwork. It's a good idea to start with a high quality sketch, which you can scan using a standard document scanner. You can also work with an image that you find on the web. Most often the sketches you'll use will be black-and-white, although Illustrator can handle color (sort of). Then using Live Paint, you can add colors to the artwork.

### Step 1: Placing the image

Create a new Illustrator file ([File > New](#)). Import an image by going to [File > Place](#) and placing the image in your Illustrator file. You can use one of the images in the Line Drawings folder in our class Google Drive folder. You may need to resize the image or the file ([File > Document Setup > Edit Artboard](#)).

### Step 2: Tracing the image

Make sure the image is selected, and click on [Image Trace](#) in the Properties panel. For this exercise, choose Line Art from the dropdown menu under Image Trace. After you've traced the image, click on [Expand](#) in the Properties panel, and you can see the paths of the image. Next, click on [Ungroup](#).

### Step 3: Live Paint

Once you've traced and expanded the object, select the [Live Paint Bucket](#) in the Toolbox: **keyboard shortcut K** is the easiest way to get to it. When roll over the image your cursor should give you a tool tip in the form of a three-square view of swatches. You can scroll through these swatches by clicking on the left and right arrows on your keyboard, or you can change colors directly through the Swatches panel. To fill an area with color, roll the small black arrow on the tool tip over the area, choose the swatch you want (using the keyboard arrows), and click in the area. Select the No Fill option and click in those areas of the artwork that you want to be transparent.

### Step 4: Swatches Panel

One of the most fun features of Illustrator is the Swatches Library, which you can get to by going to [Window > Swatches](#) and then clicking on the small Swatches Library icon in the bottom left corner of the Swatches panel. In the Swatches Library are sets of swatches there in fun groups like Art History (Ancient, Baroque, Impressionism, etc.) and Foods (Beverages, Fruit, Ice Cream). When you click on the folder next to the swatch set, it's added to your Swatches panel.

Select some fun colors and add them to your Swatches panel. Clicking on one swatch will add it to your Live Paint bucket. Use the up and down arrows on your keyboard to move between swatch sets in your Swatches panel.

### Step 5: Gap options

Live Paint will apply color to any areas that are connected—that is, where there are open gaps. If you want to reduce the number of gaps in your sketch, go to the Gap dialog box by going to [Gap Options](#) in the Properties panel. Note that you can automatically close small, medium, and large gaps in the artwork. You can also use the Direct Selection tool to click and drag anchor points so as to close gaps.

Finally, save your masterpiece as a .jpg and an example of your amazing Illustrator skills!