Explore photography

Find out about the art of taking pictures and give it a shot yourself.

Find out about the art of taking pictures and give it a shot yourself.

From painting to sculpture to collage, there are many ways to be an artist. Photography is also an art form. It allows people to express their creativity through images they capture with a camera. Learn the basics on how to get started here, then consider entering our photo contest (see next page).

Choose a camera

The first step is deciding what kind of camera you’ll use. You can ask an adult if they have an old digital camera you can borrow. These were popular before smartphones were invented. Or you can use the camera function on a smartphone or tablet to take your pictures.

Decide on a subject

Next you’ll need to choose a subject (or focal point) for your photos. There are so many options! You could photograph a person, a pet, an event, such as a neighborhood block party or a concert. Or you could focus on an object, such as a tree or a favorite toy. (Our photo contest has a nature theme.)

Set it up

Now think about the composition of your photo, which is how the people and objects are arranged. The way many photographers figure this out is to follow the “rule of thirds.” To get the hang of it, print out a photo or clip one from a magazine. Then use a ruler to draw two horizontal and two vertical lines across the photograph so the picture is split into nine equal rectangles. You want the focal point in your photo to be at one of the points where two lines intersect. This means that your subject is slightly off-center rather than right in the middle. When you take a photo, imagine where those lines would be in your frame.

Look for sunlight

The amount of light in a photograph is also very important, and natural light from the Sun creates the best images. Snapping your photos outside is an easy way to ensure good light. If you’re inside, try to take your photo near a window that has light coming through it. The best time of day to capture sunlight in your photos is right around sunrise or sunset. The Sun is low in the sky at these times, so it won’t cast harsh shadows on your subject.

Practice often

As with many hobbies, practicing will help you get better at photography. Try taking an interesting photo every day for a week, and mix up what types of pictures you take. Experiment with subjects, composition, and lighting to see what looks good to you. And don’t forget to print out and display your favorites!

4 creative ways to display photos

After you print out your favorite pictures, you can use them to decorate your home with these easy ideas.

Use tape

Roll up pieces of washi tape and put them on the backs of your photos, then attach them to a wall. Use more strips of colorful washi tape to create the four sides of a frame around each photo.

Clip to a string

Hang a long string from one end of a wall to the other. Add clothespins along the string to hold your favorite photos.

Create a collage

Take a plain wooden box or frame and layer your photos (or cut out parts of the photos) onto it. To keep the photos flat, paint over them with clear glue, such as Mod Podge, when you’re done.

Make a shape

Arrange your photos in a shape, like a heart or a star, on a large poster board. Glue or tape them down, then hang the poster on the wall.
Enter our nature photo contest!

Do you love taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? When you’re outdoors, are you often trying to capture the amazing beauty of the natural world? If so, now is your chance to put your creativity, curiosity, and skills to work by entering The Week Junior’s nature photo contest.

How to enter
- Follow the judging criteria. Submissions will be judged on quality (clear, well-composed photographs that aren't blurry), originality (the use of creativity and imagination through the camera lens), and how well the entry reflects the nature theme and The Week Junior.
- Choose one photo to enter. Only one photograph per entrant is allowed.
- Fill out an entry form. With a parent, complete an entry form and submit it by July 18.
- Enter the correct age group category. Children ages 8 to 10 will be judged in one category. Children ages 11 to 14 will be judged in another category. Winners will be selected from each category. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-PhotoContest-8-10. The entry form for 11- to 14-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-PhotoContest-11-14.

The judges
The nature photo contest will be judged by Editor-in-Chief Andrea Barbash, Creative Director Dean Abatemarco, and Photo Editors Nataki Hewling and Lily Alt. The entries will also be judged by three award-winning photographers who make their living taking pictures: Jesse Burke, Christa Renee, and Michael Rowe.

The prize
The winning entries will be featured in a September 2022 issue of The Week Junior.