

**The files you need to complete Exercise 3 can be downloaded from ImageMedic.com. The zip file will create a folder called “Exercise 3 Files.”**

**Exercise 3a - Using Color Curves in Photoshop Elements (Page 254, Brundage book)**

With *Color Curves* you can target specific tonal regions in an image -- midtone areas, highlight areas, and shadow areas. You can highlight or darken the individual regions while minimally affecting the other regions. You use Curves to more selectively tweak the image tonalities and contrast, whereas with *Levels*, your adjustments affect the entire image.

1.  From your “**Exercise 3 Files**” folder, open the file, “**Maine House.jpg**.”
2.  Select **menu:ENHANCE>ADJUST COLOR>ADJUST COLOR CURVES**
3.  Make adjustments to the desired “regions” using the appropriate sliders. Play with these to see the effects.
4.  Study that graph. The left area represents the darkest shadow areas and the highlight areas are on the right side, with midtones in the center.
5.  This photo is a bit flat. Start with the **presets** on the left side. Find one that appeals to you as a starting point. Then, use the slider to give some punch and contrast to the photo. Notice that, as you make changes, the image itself reflects the changes. You may have to move the Curves dialog box around a bit to view everything.
6.  When finished, click **OK** to apply the changes, then close the file ... saving is optional.

**Exercise 3b - Making Your Colors More Vibrant (Page 258, Brundage book)**

1.  From your “**Exercise 3 Files**” folder, open the file, “**Shelf Sitter.jpg**.”
2.  Choose one of the flowers to work on; to make the color more *saturated*. Select the flower with any selection tool you want. The **Quick Selection Tool** works well.
3.  Once the flower is selected, make a **Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer** and saturate the selection as you wish. When done, click OK.
4.  Start over by *undoing*, *deleting* the adjustment layer, or *reverting* (Edit menu). This time, you will **desaturate** (color is removed) everything *except* the flower. You do this by first selecting the flower, as above, then **Inverse** the selection (**menu:SELECT>INVERSE**), create the **Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer**, and move the *Saturation* slider all the way to the left to desaturate.
5.  Undo everything or revert. Now try the **Sponge Tool** to selectively saturate an object. No need to make a selection. Use the tool like a brush. The Sponge Tool is grouped together with the Dodge tool and the Burn tool. Be sure to check out the Options Bar.
6.  When finished, click **OK** to apply the changes, then close the file ... saving is optional.

### **Exercise 3c - Changing the Color of an Object (Page 262, Brundage book)**

1.  From your “**Exercise 3 Files**” folder, open the file, “**Ornaments.jpg**.”
2.  Select the gold ornament. The *Magnetic Lasso* or *Quick Selection* tools work well here.
3.  Go to **menu:SELECT>REFINE EDGE**, and add just a tad of feathering to the selected edge so that you don't see a hard edge when your adjustment will be completed. Just make the feathering 2 pixels. Remember that feathering will vary, depending on the resolution of your image. This image is a low-res image, so we go easy on the feathering.
4.  With the ornament selected, make a new **Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer** and set the hue to change the color. You may also want to see what the *Saturation* and *Lightness* sliders do.
5.  When finished, click **OK** to apply the changes, then close the file ... saving is optional.

### **Exercise 3d - Replacing Specific Colors**

1.  Open “**Ornaments.jpg**” again.
2.  Go to **menu:ENHANCE>ADJUST COLOR>REPLACE COLOR**
3.  See those 3 eye droppers at the top-left? Use the *left-most* eye dropper (*color sampler*) to select the hue (color) you want to change on the gold or pink ornament.
4.  The **fuzziness** control regulates the *tolerance* or *sensitivity* of the color selection because the color may actually consist of different tonalities within the color range. Adjust the slider until the entire ornament turns white within the black background.
5.  Once the color “fuzziness” is selected, change to hue via the slider at the bottom. You may need to *add* to the selection by using the middle eye dropper or *subtract* from the selection with the right eye dropper. *This is a tough tool to use so spend some time with it.*
6.  When finished, click **OK** to apply the changes, then close the file ... saving is optional.

### **Exercise 3e - Using a Brush to Replace Colors**

1.  Open “**Ornaments.jpg**” again.
2.  Set the *Foreground Color* (the swatches at the bottom of the tool bar) to a color that you wish to change the ornament to, by clicking on the Foreground color and then selecting the color from the *Color Picker*.
3.  Select the **Color Replacement Brush**. It's grouped with the standard Brush tool.
4.  Paint with the '+' reticle inside the color an ornament that you wish to change. When done, close the file ... saving is optional.