

ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR LEARNING TASK

# Digital poster with Adobe Illustrator

**Learning area**

Visual Arts

**Year level**

Year 7–8

**Duration**

120 minutes

## Task summary

In this task, students will use Adobe Illustrator to transform an analogue artwork of a school poster into a digital version. Students will practise using the elements of design to make their poster captivating.

## Session overview

Students develop their skills in digital art by creating a digital poster for a school event that builds on their creativity and digital skills.

## Digital technologies

- VR
- AR
- Robotics
- Drones
- Other: Adobe Illustrator

## Required resources

### Hardware:

- iPads/tablets /laptops

### Suggested videos:

- [Adobe Illustrator for Beginners: Get Started in 10 Minutes](#) (9:42)

### Apps:

- [Adobe Illustrator](#) (via Desktop app) - Adobe Illustrator is a vector graphics editor and design software. Note: to access Adobe Illustrator students will need an Adobe Creative Cloud subscription.

### Teaching resources:

- [Teaching deck](#) – download a copy for your own use.
- [Student digital notebook](#) – download a copy and distribute it to students via email or learning management system.

## Other resources to try (optional)

### Tutorials:

**Explore basic Adobe Illustrator features:** Check out these [Illustrator Tutorials](#) for guidance, starting with [Adobe Illustrator Fundamentals](#).

These are some basic features to look into:

- [How to use layers](#)
- [How to create with drawing tools](#)
- [Using colours and gradients](#)
- [How to create and edit shapes](#)
- [How to add text to designs](#)

## Planning and preparation

*NOTE: This learning task may be introduced in the middle or at the end of the unit.*

### Assumptions

Students should have...

- Prior lessons on Adobe Illustrator using design tools such as colours, drawing tools, adding text.
- Basic knowledge of how to create a digital poster
- Knowledge of the elements of design

### Additional preparations for teachers

- Confirm Adobe Illustrator is installed on class devices. Make sure that it is the latest version. If possible, test the software on different devices.
- Check that each student has an Adobe Creative Cloud subscription. Ensure that they know how to log-in to their accounts.
- If using online features and tutorials, ensure devices are connected to a stable network.
- Consider using graphics tablets if available. This is optional but can be very useful for intricate design and illustration work.
- Teachers should watch the videos and/or test the apps in advance to make sure that they are appropriate for their respective classes and devices.
- Make sure all devices are fully charged and set up appropriately before the lesson, with all apps installed and working.
- Download and distribute copies of the student digital notebook to students via email or a learning management system.

## Task Sequence

# 1

### Introductory activity / Provocation (5 – 10 mins)

Discuss the history of how posters were used for advertising, and how this marketing is still widely used today, in this case we are using the example of a school event. Using the teaching deck, show students examples of posters from different events and styles.

Explain that students will be designing a poster for a school event using paper and tectas/pencils. They will then be transforming this into a digital poster.

Introduce the concept of a digital poster and briefly explain that students will be using Adobe Illustrator to complete a digital poster for a school event. This can be a real event about to happen (e.g. sports day, Mother's Day breakfast, etc.), or a school event that they wish to

happen (e.g., Pajamas Day, Cupcake Festival, etc.). Get students to brainstorm by asking the following:

1. What school event do you look forward to most?
2. Which school event do you think is the most entertaining? Why?
3. If you could make up your own school event, what would it be?

Encourage students to exhibit a variety of design elements in their poster (colours, themes, shapes, patterns, etc.)

## 2

### Prior knowledge check (5- 10 mins)

Discuss with students what they remember about elements of design? (Line, shape, colour, texture, form, space, value and typography).

Encourage students to discuss what effect the elements of design have on things such as posters.

Recap with students how to design a poster. Brainstorm what is the key information they will need? (e.g. time, date, event , location, images etc.)

Once students have had a brief brainstorm on how they would like to showcase their poster, encourage students to watch some of the tutorials listed above to get a better understanding of how to use the features of Adobe Illustrator.

## 3

### Activities (90 mins)

#### Part 1 - Analogue poster

Students will create their poster on an A4 piece of white paper. They will ensure they cover the school event in detail, adding images, colour, event details etc.

Once complete students will then create their digital copy.

#### Part 2 - Adobe Illustrator

Sign in students to Adobe Illustrator. Students are to select a blank working page to be able to create the poster.

Throughout the steps students will explore the use of colours, gradients, shapes and various tools to capture details accurately. If students need more guidance there are specific tutorials they can access to assist with each of these aspects.

1. **Recap information of event:** Finalise information of the chosen event for example (date, venue, cost, activities etc.). Students can refer to their analogue poster for this information.
2. **Open Adobe Illustrator:** Launch Adobe Illustrator on your computer.
3. **Create a new document:** Start a new document in Adobe Illustrator by selecting "File" > "New" and set the dimensions according to your preference.
4. **Place images:** Import the main images by selecting "File" > "Place" and then choosing the image file from your computer. Adjust the size and position of the image as needed.

5. **Add details:** Add additional details such as text, borders, background.
6. **Apply colour:** Select each shape and choose a suitable fill colour from the Color panel. You can sample colours directly from the reference image using the Eyedropper Tool (I).
7. **Add shading and highlights:** Use gradients, blends, or transparency to add shading and highlights to the poster, enhancing the three-dimensional effect. Pay attention to the direction of light in the reference image.
8. **Refine and Adjust:** Continuously refine the shapes, colours, and details of the poster until you are satisfied with the result. Don't hesitate to make adjustments as needed.
9. **Final Touches:** Add any final touches such as background elements or additional details to complete the composition.
10. **Save Your Work:** Once you're finished, save your poster as an Adobe Illustrator (.ai) file so you can continue editing it later if needed.

Students then complete the reflective questions in their student digital notebook and can add their image in to accompany it.

## 4

### Check for understanding (5- 10 mins)

To complete the lesson export or share the poster in a suitable format for your intended use, such as JPEG or PNG for sharing online or printing.

To conclude this learning task, teachers can ask students to share their poster and explain their creative thinking behind their design or submit it for assessment.

Differentiation for students with additional needs	Extension ideas	Video tips
<p>Students can work in pairs if needed.</p> <p>Students can also choose to focus on just one element of design on their poster.</p>	<p>Students can extend the skills learned in creating a digital poster making their posters in various formats to create other sizes such as a bookmark-sized version of their poster. Students can also create their poster with a different theme and compare their poster versions to see which would be more effective at drawing a large crowd.</p>	<p>The video for this learning task demonstrates how to access Adobe Illustrator through the EdPass Portal.</p>

## Curriculum Connections

### Australian Curriculum Version 9.0

#### Year 7-8 Visual Arts

Transforming an analogue visual artwork into a series of digital versions using digital tools such as software, visual art processes and materials; (AC9AVA8C02).

### Cross-curriculum priorities

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures
- Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia
- Sustainability

### General capabilities

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and social capability
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding