

LESSON 25

Editing Images with Canva, Part 1: Crop, Resize and Adjust

40 minutes

Following My Interests Online

Outcome 3.8

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Students set up a canvas in Canva, place an image, crop and resize it, and adjust it with filters, brightness and contrast.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
3.8	Create a digital montage on a specific topic of interest from images sourced online while applying learning regarding copyright, fair use, plagiarism and intellectual property ownership.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Use pixels, resolution, cropping, resizing and aspect ratio correctly
- Explain the difference between cropping and resizing
- Crop an image to change what is in frame, and resize without distorting it
- Apply a filter and adjust brightness and contrast deliberately

BEFORE THE BELL

- CANVA NEEDS AN ACCOUNT. Students sign up free with their school email. Sort this out BEFORE the lesson: if the class signs up during the period you will lose ten minutes and some students will not get in at all. Check your school allows the sign-up and that the email domain works.
- Canva's labels were checked on 14 Aug 2026 and all still exist. Three things sit differently to how you might expect: Create a design is in the top LEFT on a laptop, the crop control is an icon whose label only shows on hover, and you scroll down the edit panel to reach Filters. Everything else is where the lesson says.
- The practical work is steps 3 to 5. Keep step 2 tight so it survives. For each of those steps, demonstrate live in Canva on the board first (one action at a time), then let students match the same moves on their own devices using the step-by-step interactive as their checklist. Do not rely on the interactive itself to pace a board walkthrough.
- Run step 6 as a discussion, not a lecture. The crop question is the one that makes this a media literacy lesson rather than a software tutorial.
- Devices with a browser; a Canva account per student.

WHAT YOU NEED

Item	Qty	Per	If you do not have it
Chromebook/ Laptop/PC		student	
Canva account (school email)			REQUIRED. Free, but each student must sign up with a school email BEFORE the lesson. Signing up during the period costs about ten minutes and some students will not get in.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS		
4 min	introduction	Start
5 min	content	The words editors use
8 min	activity	Hands-on: Open Canva and place an image
12 min	activity	Hands-on: Crop and resize
9 min	activity	Hands-on: Filters, brightness and contrast
2 min	summary	What you covered