Pixel Project

Jodie Martin
Rob Krouch
Rhonda Gordon

Rational: The 3-5th grade student will understand the relationship between the human visual system and technology of the 21st century.

Goal: Students will learn about how the eye works to form optical illusions and relate this knowledge to have a better understanding of how humans interact with technology.

Grade Level: 3-5th

Subject: Science and Math

Lesson Objective:

Math: Given a fraction, the 3rd-5th grade student will color a representation of the fraction value, to demonstrate understanding of fractions.

Science: Upon completion of the fraction squares, the 3rd- 5th grade student will combine the squares to develop a pixelated picture to demonstrate understanding of grayscale and pixels.

FL. Sunshine State Standards:

Science:

SC.H.1.2.1. Knows that a model of something is different from the real thing, but can be used to learn something about the real thing.

SC.H.3.2.1. Understands that people, alone or in groups, invent new tools to solve problems and do work that affects aspects of life outside of science.

SC.H.3.2.2. Knows that data are collected and interpreted in order to explain an event or concept.

SC.H.3.2.3. Knows that before a group of people build something or try something new, they should determine how it may affect other people.

SC.H.3.2.4. Knows that through the use of science processes and knowledge, people can solve problems, make decisions, and form new ideas.

Math:

MA.A.1.21. Names whole numbers combining three-digit numeration (hundreds, tens, ones) and the use of number periods, such as ones, thousands, and millions and associates verbal names, written word names, and standard numerals with whole numbers, commonly used fractions, decimals, and percents.

MA.A.1.2.2. Understands the relative size of whole numbers, commonly used fractions, decimals, and percents.

MA.A.1.2.3. Understands concrete and symbolic representations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents in real-world situations.

MA.A.1.2.4. Understands that numbers can be represented in a variety of equivalent forms using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents.

Materials:

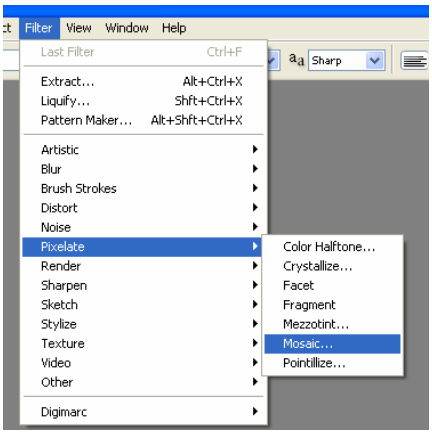
- Computer
- 1 Black and White picture (check out www.corbis.com)
- Photoshop computer program
- Excel or other spreadsheet program (directions are written for the Excel Program)
- Black permanent markers
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Tape

Preparation:

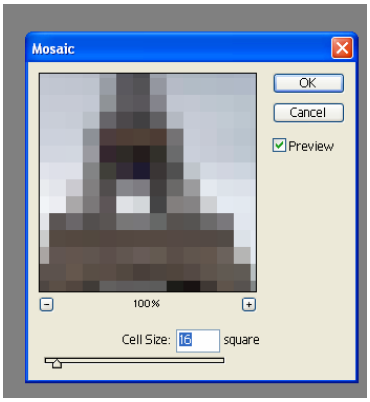
1. Save the picture you would like to pixelate (black & white is best)

2. Open your picture in Photoshop

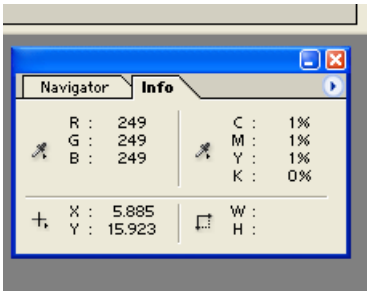
3. Press the **Filter** icon, then **Pixelate,** then **Mosaic**



4. In the Cell Size box, choose 16 (the higher the number, the larger the pixels will become).

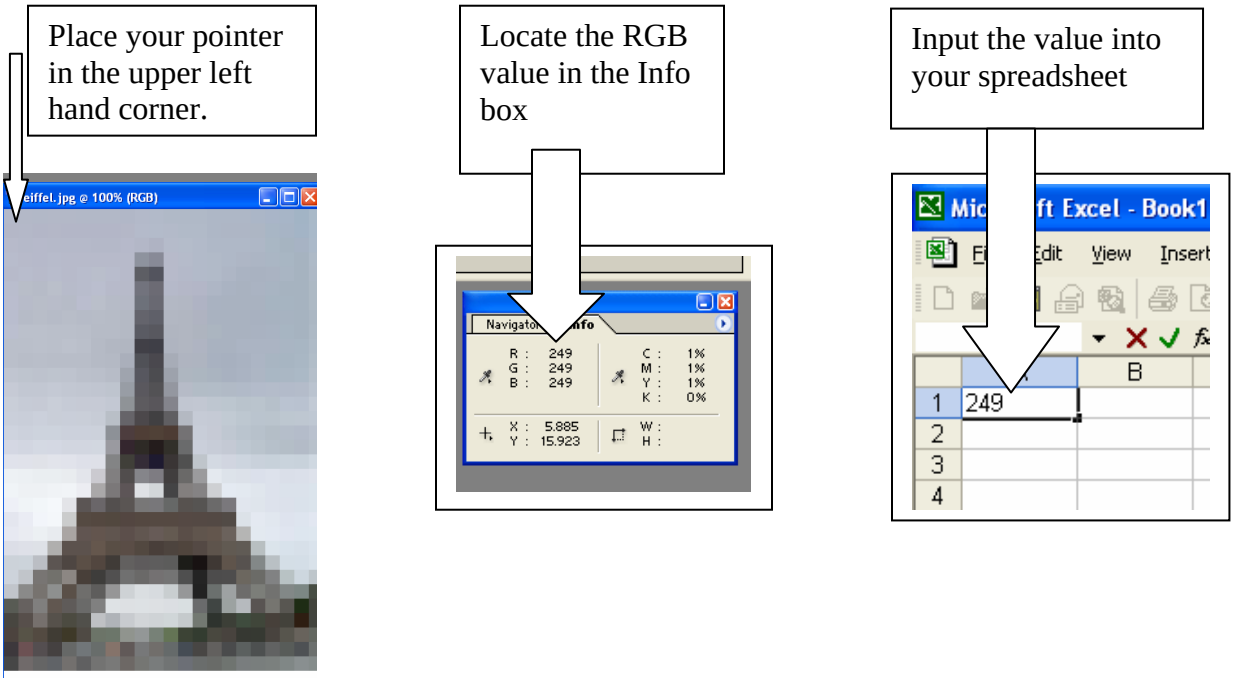


5. In the upper right hand corner of your screen, you will notice a box with the tabs, **Navigator**, and **Info.**



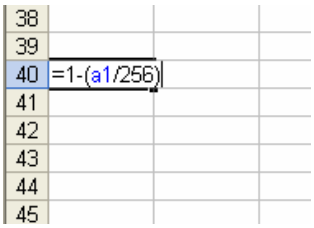
6. Press the **Info** tab, notice the R, G, B values change as you move your cursor over the picture.

7. Move your cursor to the top left square of your picture. Record this value into a spreadsheet. (The example shown is Excel.)



8. Move your cursor to the next pixel in your picture, input this value into cell B40 of your spreadsheet. Repeat this process for each pixel of the picture.

9. Go to Cell A 40, and input the formula =1-(+A1/256).

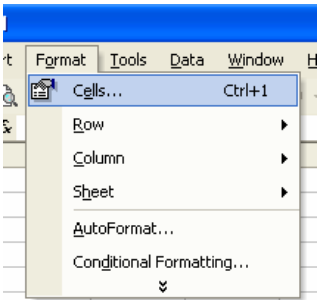


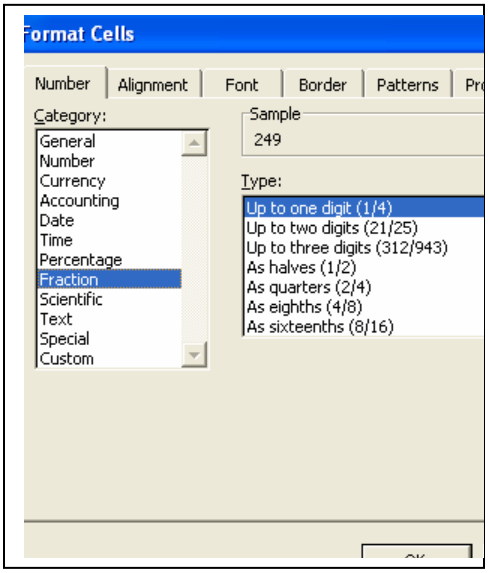
10. **Copy** the formula.

11. Highlight the same number of cells as you have values inputted above.

12. Paste the formula into these cells.

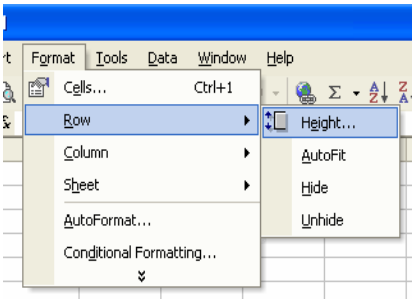
13. Now you must change these values to a fraction. Go to **Format Cells**, **Fraction**, (**up to one digit** is adequate)





14. Highlight the cells you just pasted, press the **Format** Icon, press **Cells**, then press the **Alignment** tab. Use the drop down boxes to change the Horizontal and Vertical alignments to **Center.**

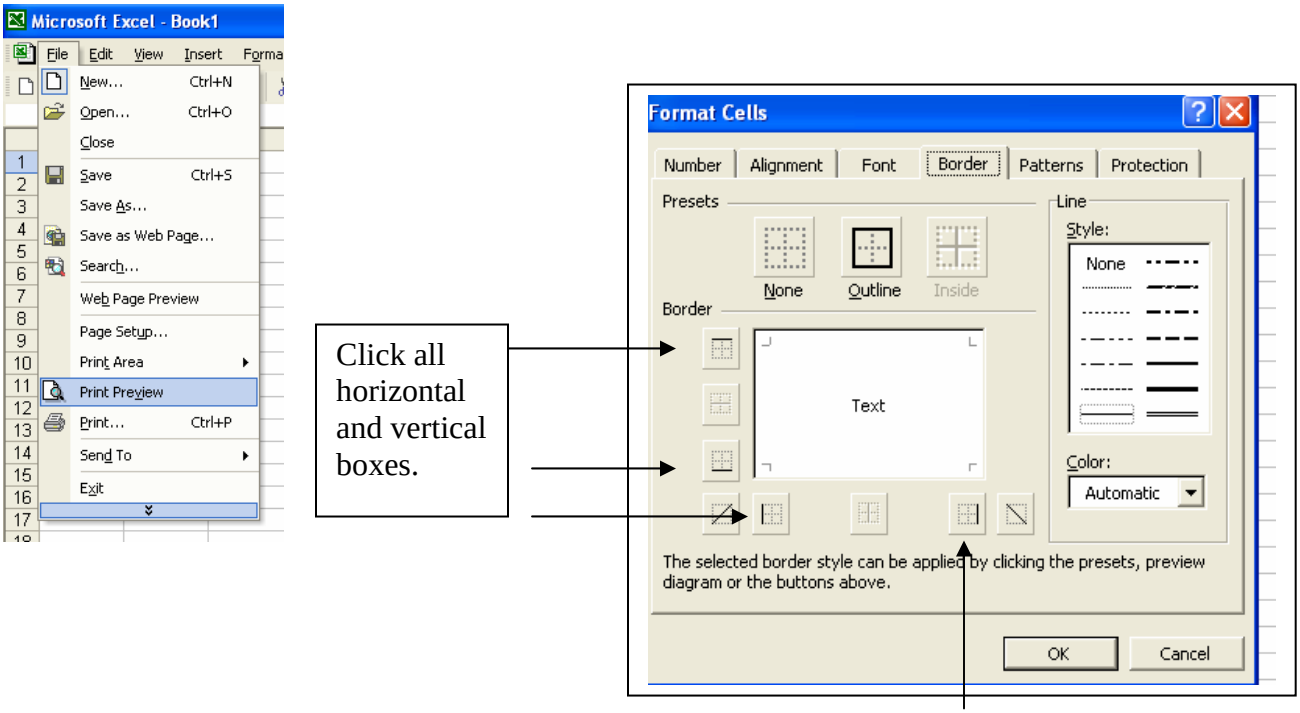
15. Now you must make all the cells into squares. To make 2 inch squares, click **Format**, **Row**, **Height**, and change to 144.



16. Press **Format, Column, Width**, and change to 25.

17. Highlight the section you would like to print. (Note: It is not necessary to print the top.)

18. Press **Format, Cells, Border**, and click all horizontal and vertical lines around the box. This will make a clear border around each cell.



19. Press **File, Page Setup**, and change all your margins to Zero (0).

20. Print the documents and number the back of each page to ensure the accuracy of the page order.

Procedure:

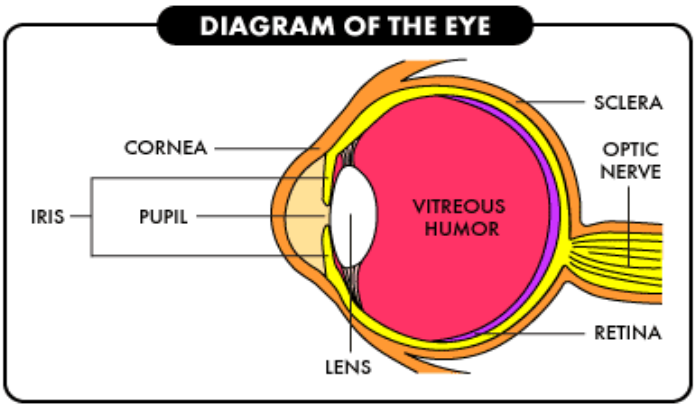
- Give each student a numbered page of the document.
- Instruct the students to use a pencil and a marker to outline the fraction value of each cell.
- Trim the edges of the pages so that they easily fit together.
- Tape each page
- Have the students stand close to the picture to see if they see a clear image.
- Then have the students stand back 30-40 feet to see if there is a difference.
- A teacher background sheet is included. (Appendix A)
- Included is a student handout (Appendix B) which will help the students understand the science behind pixelization.

Appendix A
Teacher Background

Background:

- Whenever you see an object it is because light rays are reflected through the lens in your eye. This lens is so flexible that you can focus on near and far objects and you can see things that you're not even focusing on.

- The light rays pass through the jelly-like eyeball and onto the retina, a screen in the back of your eye. The retina is made up of many special cells that are sensitive to light and color. From the retina, visual messages are relayed to the brain along a pathway called the optic nerve. Your brain then interprets this information into a picture.



- Today's modern televisions, computer monitors, and digital cameras utilize a similar process by storing images into points or pixels. Each pixel has its own color information and brightness. The more pixels in the picture, the more detailed the image appears.

- The eye's retina contains receptors in the back. All of the receptors are assimilated into a single image, because our brains are so sophisticated that they can process this information all at once. However, this same sophistication is what tricks us every day.

- Televisions and computer screens are broken down into pixels. These pixels are continually changing. This is why we see the pictures as real time moving objects.

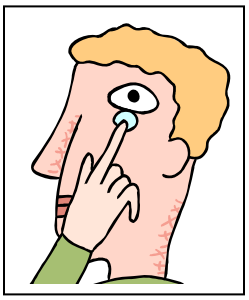
- Pixels start at the upper left hand corner of a screen. They add on to the right at a rapid speed. Each pixel is either a color or a grey-scale value. The pixels continue to refresh.

- Our eye is tricked into thinking that this is one picture and not a series of pixels.

Appendix B
Student Handout

Pixelization and You

Whenever you see an object it's because light rays are reflected through the lens in your eye. This lens is so flexible that you can focus on near and far objects and you can see things that you're not even focusing on.



In the back your eye you have a screen
na. Light rays pass
eyeball and project
brain then
ion into a picture.

Your HDTV, computer monitors, and digital cameras work in a very similar way. They all store images into points or pixels. Each pixel has its own color information and brightness. The more pixels in the picture, the more detailed the image appears.

Your eye's retina contains many receptor cells in the back. These receptor cells are like pixels on the screen.

The television, camera and monitor are broken down into pixels. These pixels are always changing. This is why we see the pictures moving objects. Pixels start at the upper left hand corner of a screen. They add on to the right at a rapid speed. Each pixel is either a color or a grey-scale value. The pixels continue to refresh. Your eye is tricked into thinking that this is one picture and not a series of pixels. In other words, your eyes blend the squares to form one image.