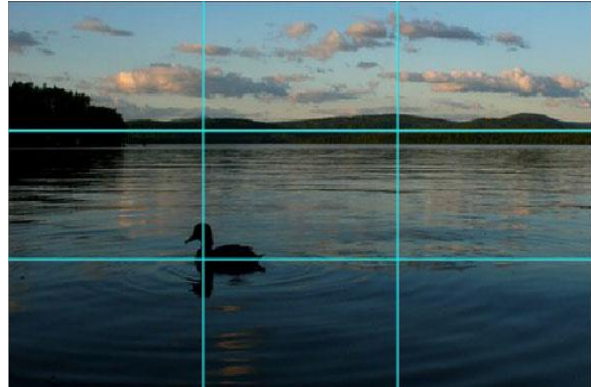
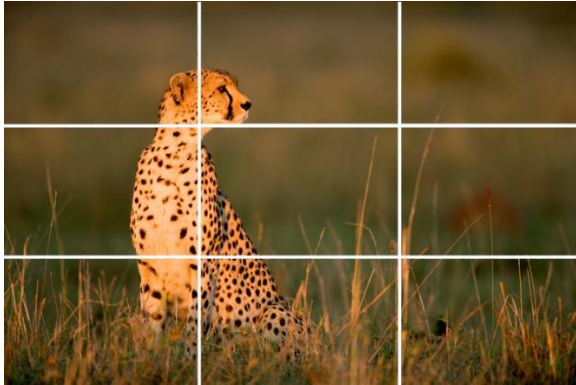


## MODULE 2: PHOTO COMPOSITION

### THE RULE OF THIRDS

The Rule of Thirds is a simple guide that can be used to quickly compose an image in a visually interesting way. Landscapes tend to put the horizon on one of the horizontal lines, for example, and portraits tend to put an eye on one of the points where the lines intersect.



### TRY THIS OUT:

Look at the photos you put aside earlier, or search for some landscape and portrait photographs on the Internet. See if you can identify how they were composed. Did they use the rule of thirds? Is there something that might be following grid lines?

#### **ACTIVITY: Take a photo of a family member using the Rule of Thirds**

1. Use the live grid on your app (typically found in Settings) to line up your photo. Having a grid will make it easy to try this composition trick.
2. Try putting the subject's eye on one of the intersecting points.
3. Take another photo without using the Rule of Thirds.
4. Compare the two photographs. Does one look better in comparison?

## LANDSCAPES

Landscapes are scenes of nature or cities focused on the environment. Generally, landscapes will use a tripod, and a wider angle or more zoomed out lens. A great landscape photo usually follows the rule of thirds, and may use an effect called “panorama” to capture a really wide scene.



### TRY THIS OUT:

Using the normal camera on your device, try using panorama mode to take a wide photo. How does it look different from a photo in “regular” mode?

## PORTRAITS

Portraits are pictures of people – whether in groups, or by themselves.



### ACTIVITY: Take a Portrait

- Take one photo of your family, toys, or pet(s).
- Take another photo, but this time move your subject(s) closer to you, and further from their background.
- Which one looks better?

### PRO TIP:

- Separate your subject from the background or what’s happening around them.
- Use the portrait setting on your device’s camera.

**TRY THIS OUT:**

- Brainstorm 3-4 scenes that you'd like to photograph
  - Example: A waterfall during the winter – “It’s snowing, and there’s a waterfall I want to take pictures of. The sun is reflecting off the water, and snowflakes are slowly drifting towards the ground.”
- How would you shoot this imaginary scene? Here are some examples:
  - You could shoot a Landscape using the Rule of Thirds to frame the waterfall and the river next to it
  - You could use a slower shutter speed to give the waterfall motion
  - You could use a tighter aperture to keep everything in focus and properly exposed
- Get creative! There’s no wrong way to take a picture. Think about what you’d like to accomplish with your picture, and describe the settings and techniques you’d use.

**ACTIVITY: Photo Challenge Time**

Take the following photographs. You’ll be using them in the next module!

- 10 different pictures of the same thing
- A picture that freezes something or someone fast
- A picture that shows movement
- A picture using framing or The Rule of Thirds

**[Take me to more Picture Perfect modules!](#)**

**[Comments, questions, or feedback? Email us at academy@geeksquad.ca.](mailto:academy@geeksquad.ca)**

**[Take me back to Geek Squad Academy Online Learning!](#)**