lab::color correction

⬤ = Indicates a step for which the instructions have not been completely presented.

1. Copy the `Lab_Resources_07` folder from `Data > GD_121C` folder to the `Student Work` folder on your computer. Rename the folder with your name.

2. Open the `Harp_seal.psd` file in Photoshop.

3. Double-click on the Background layer and name it *Seal*. This changes the Background into a true layer.

4. Select Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Levels… menu to create a new Adjustment Layer. Name it *Levels*.

⬤ 5. Adjust the Highlight and Shadow points of the Input Levels in each color channel – NOT the RGB channel – until the image is visually improved.

6. Toggle the visibility of the Adjustment Layer, comparing the original image to the corrected image. If further adjustments are required, double-click on the Adjustment Layer icon and make your changes

7. Make visible the Info palette. (Window > Info)

8. Hide the Level's Adjustment Layer and create a new Adjustment Layer using Curves. (Layer > New Adjustment Layer > Curves…). Name it *Curves*.

9. From within Curves, create two Color Sampler points: One in the Shadow area and one in the Highlight area of the image. To add a Color Sampler point, simply Shift-click on the image at the desired sampling point.

⬤ 10. Adjust the Highlight and Shadow points of the image using BOTH the RGB and individual color channels until the image is visually improved.
   • The Shadow color values should be between 0 and 20.
   • The Highlight color values should be between 250 and 255.

11. Toggle the visibility of the Adjustment Layer, comparing the original image to the corrected image. If further adjustments are required, double-click on the Adjustment Layer icon and make your changes

12. Select the Seal layer and perform an Unsharp mask on it (Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask…) using the following settings:

    a. Amount: 125%
    b. Radius: 1.5
    c. Threshold: 5

While you are in the Unsharp Mask dialog box, try playing with different settings and previewing how they look. Try an Amount value of 500%, or a radius of 6. Notice how easy it is to oversharpen an image.

13. Save your work and close the file.

14. Open the `Cheetah.psd` file in Photoshop.

15. Improve the quality of the image using the following tools:

    a. Create a Curves Adjustment Layer and color correct the image.
    b. Perform an Unsharp Mask on the image.
    c. Make sure the cheetah is the focal point of the image by increasing the contrast of the colors that make up the animal using Curves.

16. Save your work and close the file.

17. Save your work, close any open files, and move your folder in the `Student Work` drive to `Data > GD_121C > Completed Labs` folder.

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+ There are a number of other images located in the `Extra_Images` folder. Feel free to color correct and adjust those images for practice.