LAYERS

- Types of layers
- Editing layers
- Layers palette

LAYERS

- Layers allow us to combine multiple images while still
  - keeping our imagery and objects separate
  - allowing us to edit one image at a time
  - allowing us to stack imagery with transparency

- Layers help use create imagery that appears realistic, fantastical, and highly original

WHAT IS A LAYER?

A layer is like...

transparent panes of glass to keep imagery separate
PHOTOSHOP LAYERS

Just like glass…
- Top layers may block portions of layers beneath
- Areas of the layer that are not painted are transparent
  - White is a color! It is not transparent
- Layers can be rearranged
- Layers can be thrown away or added
- Layers can be painted, rotated, scaled, re-positioned without affecting any other layers

LAYER HINTS

- Checkers = Transparent
- Turn off visibility for all other layers to identify what is on a layer
- Many layers are created automatically (type, pasting, shape, etc.)

LAYER PROPERTIES

- Each layer has the following properties:
  - Opacity
  - Fill
  - Visibility
  - Blending Mode
  - Locking
  - Name

LOCKING OPTIONS

- Lock the transparent pixels (don’t let me paint them!)
- Lock the pixels (don’t let me paint over existing imagery)
- Lock the position of the layer
- Lock Everything!
IDENTIFYING LAYERS

Which layer has the thorns on it?

ACTIVE LAYER

- All edits are based on the “active layer” (highlighted layer)

E.g. If you want to select part of an image, you must make sure the layer that contains the image area you wish to select is active!

TYPES OF LAYERS

- Image/Pixel (basic)
  - Background
- Adjustment
  - Fill
- Type
- Smart
- Shape

CS6 has a filtering menu for the layers palette.
ADJUSTMENT LAYERS

- Change the value, color, or intensity of the layer(s) beneath

FILL LAYERS

- Solid Fill
- Gradient Fill
- Pattern Fill

TYPE LAYERS

- Editable type

SMART LAYERS

- Smart layers (smart objects) store an image’s original content
SMART LAYERS

- Non-Destructive
  Allow us to resize and filter layers without losing any original data - the original data is stored in the file
- Smart layers can be created from vector files, which would allow you unlimited resizing
- Smart layers can be created from bitmap files, which would allow you unlimited resizing up to 100% of the original size

ADVANCED USE OF LAYERS

LAYER SETS/GROUPS

- An organized set or folder of layers
- The set can be viewed as if the stack is simply sitting among the other layers -- “Pass Through” blending mode
- The set can be considered separate via a “normal” blending mode
CLIPPING GROUPS

- A clipping group uses the layer beneath as a clipping mask
- e.g. Adjustment layers can be grouped so they effect only the grouped layer

LAYER COMPS

- Layer comps allow you to save your layer properties for each ‘mock’ design you create in a single document
  - Visibility
  - Position
  - Appearance

CREATING LAYERED IMAGES
BASIC STEPS

1. Sketch ideas
2. Gather images
3. Finalize design ideas
4. Create backgrounds, cutout objects, create forms
5. Combine images into a single document
6. Arrange composition
7. Edit, critique, edit, critique...

DON’T SKIP THE CONCEPT PHASE!