#### The Basics #1: Rule of Thirds

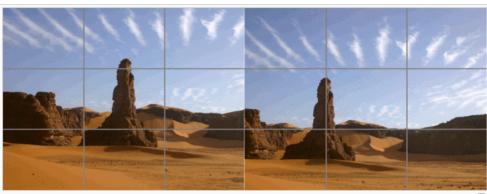
- The rule of thirds is a principle of the Golden ratio.
- Applies to the process of composing visual images and photographs.
- An image should be imagined as divided into nine equal parts.
- Important compositional elements should be placed along these lines or their intersections.
- Aligning a subject with these points creates more tension, energy and interest in the composition than simply centering the subject.
- Break the rule of thirds! See what you get.



This photograph of a sunset taken in the Thousand Islands region demonstrates the principles of the rule of thirds

See how this photograph lines up the tree along the lines and intersections.





A picture cropped without and with the rule of thirds

## The Basics #2: Play with Light

#### Think about:

- Exposure is the amount of light that your camera picks up. It determines the overall lightness or darkness of the photo.
- Quality how "soft" or "hard" the light is and the difference between "warm" and "cool" light.
- **Direction** the position of the light source relative to the scene.
- Shadows and highlights the darkest and brightest regions in a photo.









### The Basics #3: Focus

- Choose your **point of focus** where you want the viewer's eye to rest.
- Decide on the **depth of field** how much of the photo will be in focus.



# The Basics #4: Perspective

- Think about the camera's position in relation to the subject of the photograph. You don't have to shoot from a typical perspective!
  - o Get high.
  - o Look up.
  - o Move.
  - You don't have to shoot straight ahead.











