

Quick Start Guide


Composite an image of a Moon landing

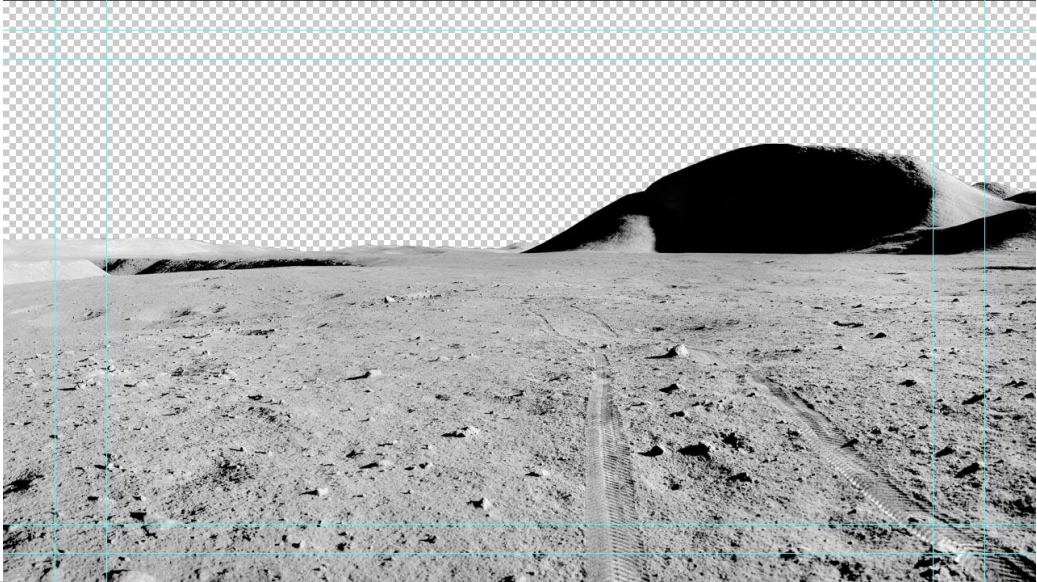
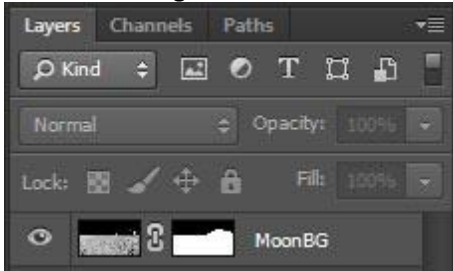
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1. Start with the Moon

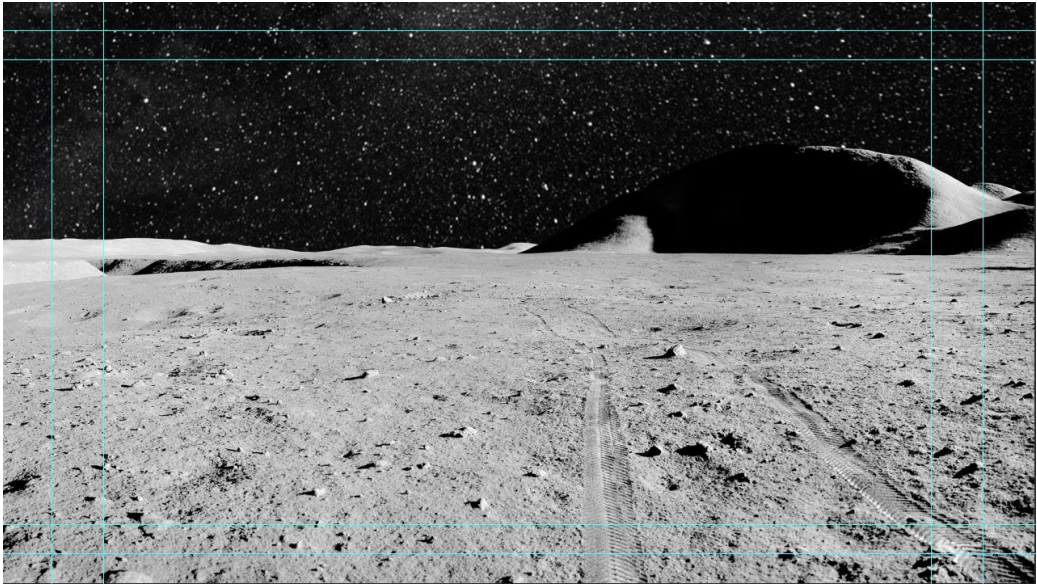
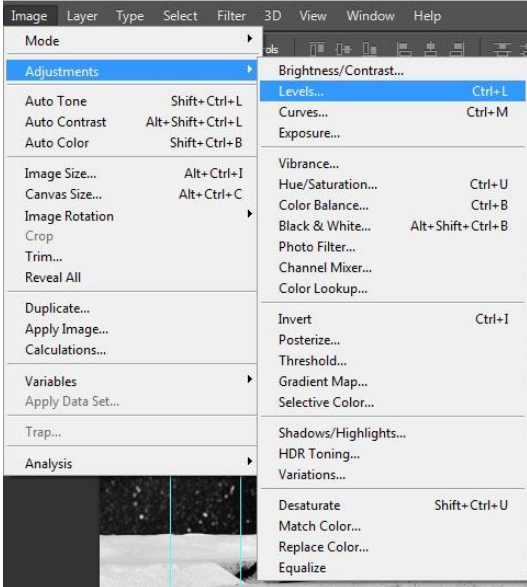
These five steps guide you through setting up your Adobe Photoshop project, adding the background image, and creating a mask to cut out the black sky, allowing you to integrate the stars and Earth later on.

Step	Action
1	Create new project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Adobe Photoshop and start a new project.• Set the project resolution to HDTV (1920 x 1080), either manually or by using a pre-set.
2	Add background image: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Import the Staged Moon landing_background image on a new layer.  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice the solid black sky in the background where you'd expect to see stars.

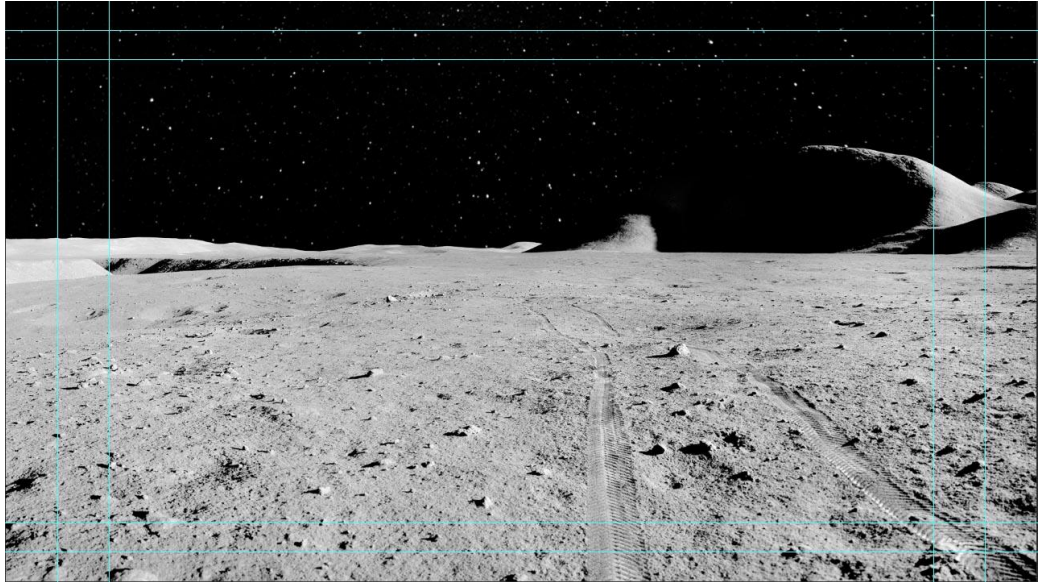
3	<p>Create mask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a mask to cut out the background where the stars should be. 
4	<p>Check mask layer values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice the mask layer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ White values on the mask represent areas that will be solid in the image. ○ Black values on the mask indicate transparency, allowing the underlying layers to show through. 
5	<p>Save your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the project to preserve the changes made to the background image and mask.

2. Add the stars and Earth

These five steps guide you through inserting the star field and adjusting its contrast to match the main background, then adding Earth and ensuring its proper resizing and alignment with the background's light direction.

Step	Action
1	<p>Create stars layer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add Stars.jpg on a new layer.  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observe that the star field appears too grey and does not match the contrast levels of the main background.
2	<p>Adjust contrast level of star field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navigate to Image > Adjustments > Levels panel. 

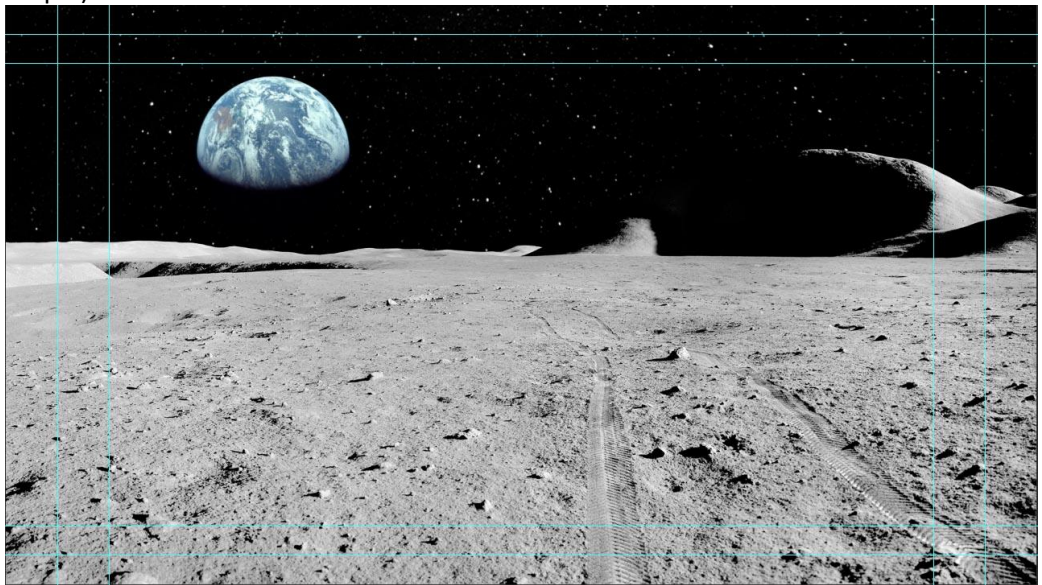
- Drag the sliders within the Levels panel to achieve a contrast level that matches the rest of the image.



- Ensure the star field integrates seamlessly with the background.

3 **Add and resize Earth:**

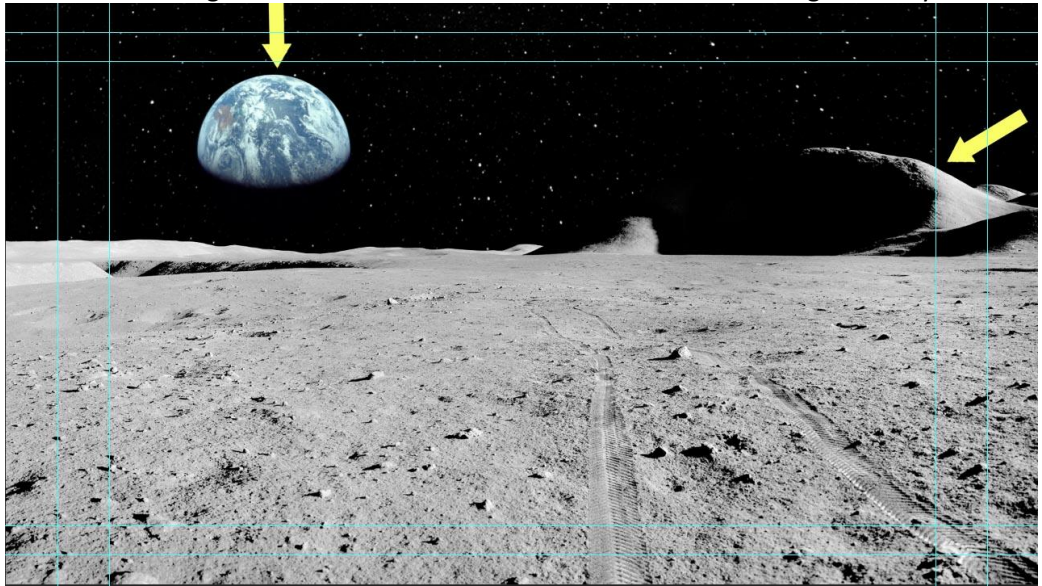
- Import Earth.jpg to the composite.
- Note that the Earth appears too large: resize it for more realistic integration (see also Step 4).



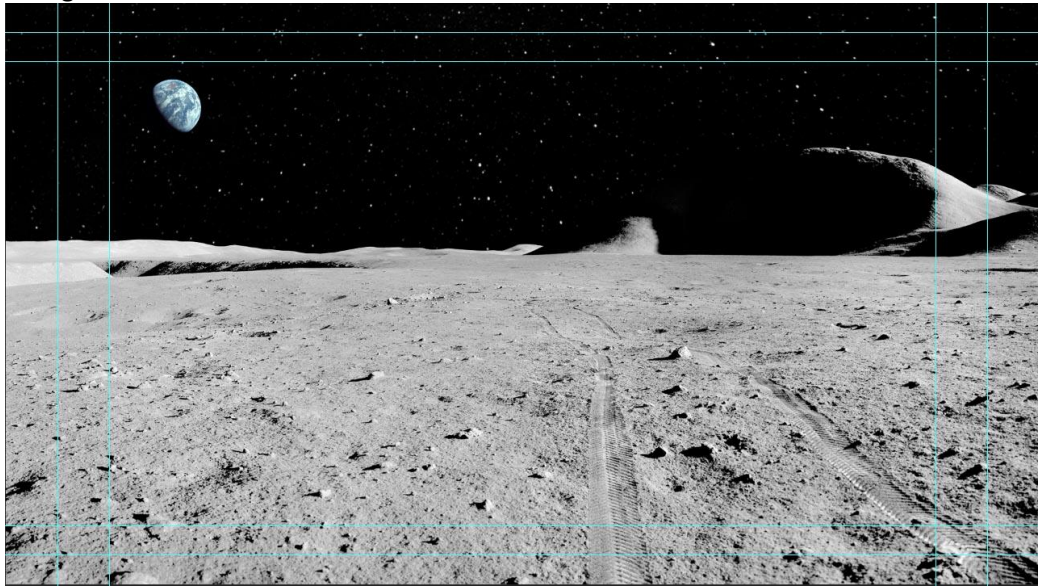
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Adjust light direction:

- Notice that the light direction of the Earth does not match the background layer.



- While resizing, rotate the Earth layer to align with the light direction of the background.



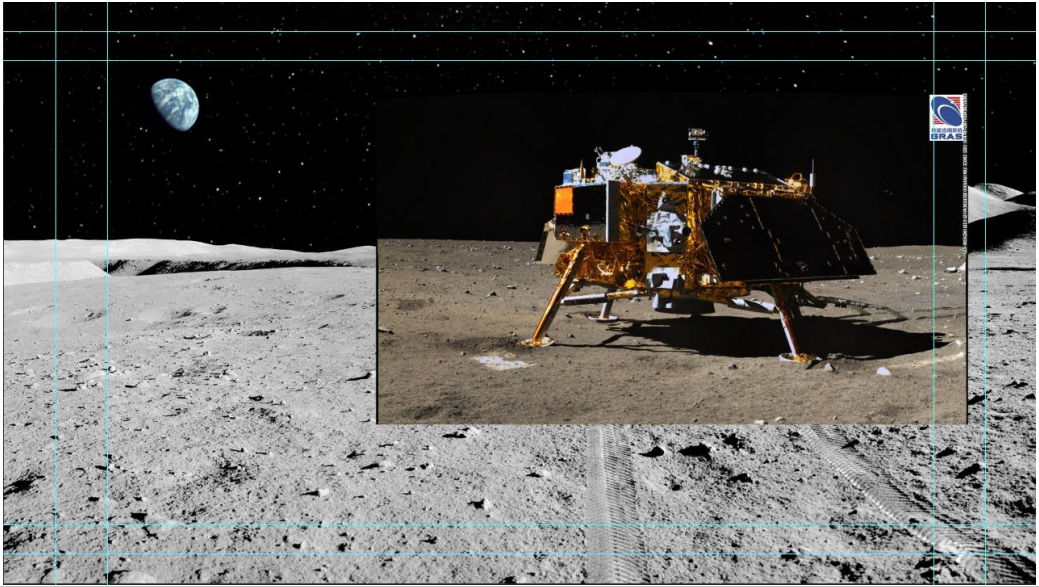

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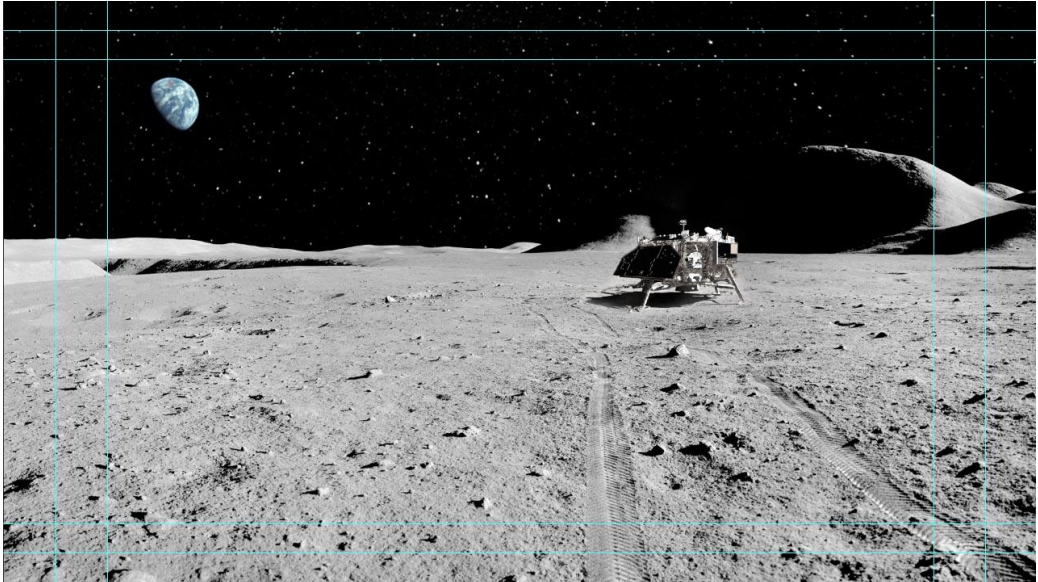
Save your work:

- Save the project to preserve the changes made to the star field and Earth.

3. Add the lander

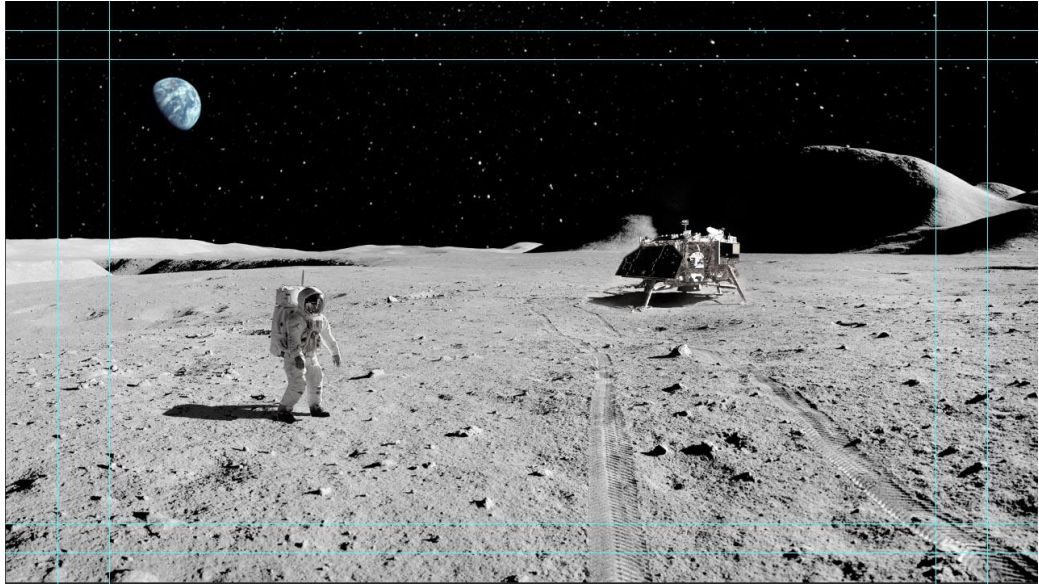
These five steps guide you through inserting the lander image, correcting its light direction, adjusting its colour properties to match the background, and masking the edges to integrate it into the overall composite image.

Step	Action
1	<p>Create lander layer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add Lander.jpg on a new layer. 
2	<p>Correct light direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice that the light direction of the lander is incorrect.• Flip the layer horizontally to align the light direction with the background. 

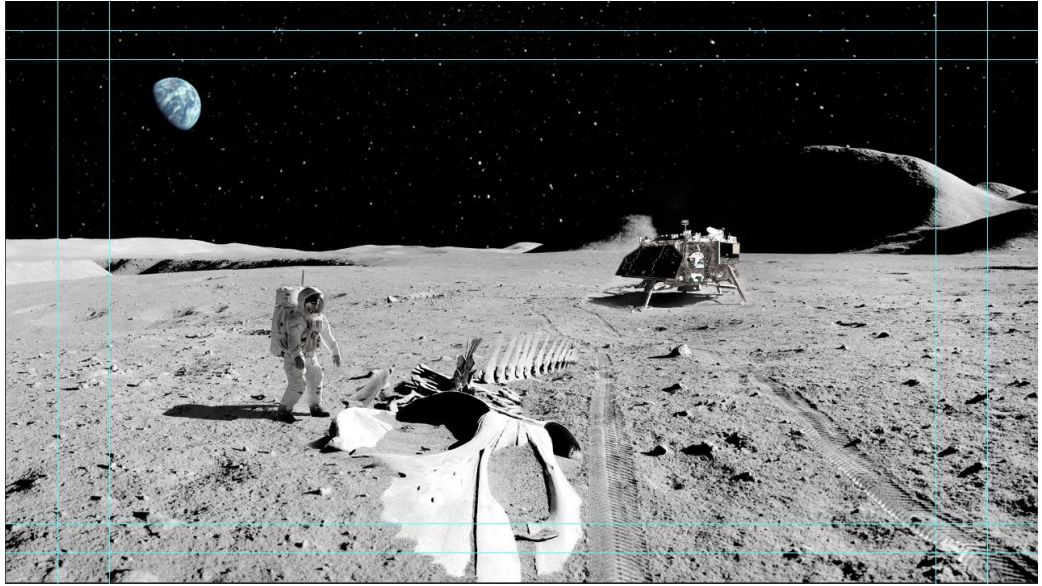
3	<p>Adjust saturation, levels, and brightness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine-tune the saturation, levels, and brightness of the lander image to match the background.• Ensure a cohesive and realistic integration with the overall composite.
4	<p>Mask background edges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a mask for the lander layer to eliminate the background of the lander image. 
5	<p>Save your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Save the project to preserve the changes made to the lander.

4. Add the astronaut and whale bones

These six steps guide you through integrating the astronaut and whale bones. For the astronaut, you create a mask, adjust properties, and duplicate for a shadow effect. For the whale bones, you follow similar steps, creating a mask and adjusting properties to ensure seamless integration with the rest of the composite image.

Step	Action
1	Create astronaut layer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add Astronaut.jpg on a new layer.
2	Mask and adjust properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a mask for the astronaut layer.• Adjust the saturation, levels, and brightness to seamlessly blend with the background.
3	Duplicate shadow: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duplicate the astronaut layer to create a shadow.• Transform and skew the new layer into position on the ground.• Adjust levels to remove light or colour information, making the new layer appear black as the shadow. 
4	Create whale bones layer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add Whale bones.jpg image on a new layer.
5	Mask and adjust properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a mask for the whale bones layer.

- Adjust saturation, levels, and brightness to harmonise with the overall image.



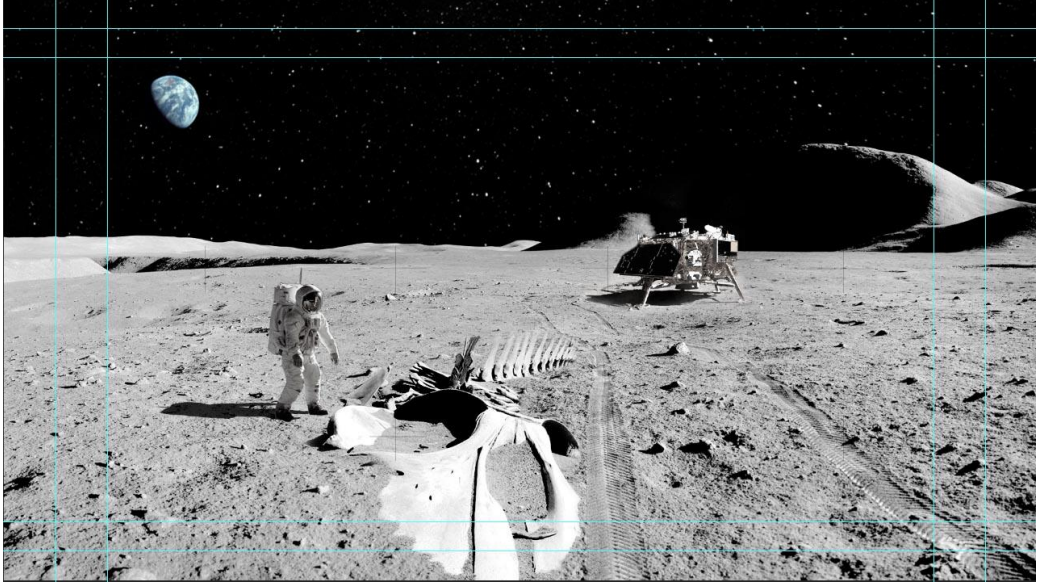
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Save your work:

- Save the project to preserve the changes made to the astronaut and whale bones.

5. Add embellishments and finish

These five steps guide you through adding embellishments to the overall image. Examples include grid lines, colour grading, vignettes, film dust/scratches, video/TV resolution lines, and lighting effects. Experiment with these options to enhance the visual impact of the composite image.

Step	Action
1	Add embellishments layer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a new layer for embellishments on top of the existing composite.
2	Grid lines example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In this example, grid lines reminiscent of NASA images from the 1960s are added strategically to complement the overall image.  A composite image of a moon landing scene. In the foreground, an astronaut in a white spacesuit stands on the lunar surface. To the right, a lunar lander is parked. In the background, the Earth is visible in the black sky of space. The entire scene is overlaid with a white grid pattern, consisting of vertical and horizontal lines that divide the image into a grid of squares. The grid lines are spaced evenly across the image, creating a technical or scientific aesthetic.
3	Choose embellishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decide on the specific embellishments or treatments to enhance the overall image, e.g. grid lines, colour grading, vignettes, film dust/scratches, video/TV resolution lines, and lighting effects.• Embellishments included in the materials provided are Lens Flare.jpg and Dust.jpg.
4	Experiment with treatments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore various treatments to find the ones that enhance the aesthetic of the composite – the choices are almost limitless.
5	Save your work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Save the project to preserve the final changes made to the composite image.