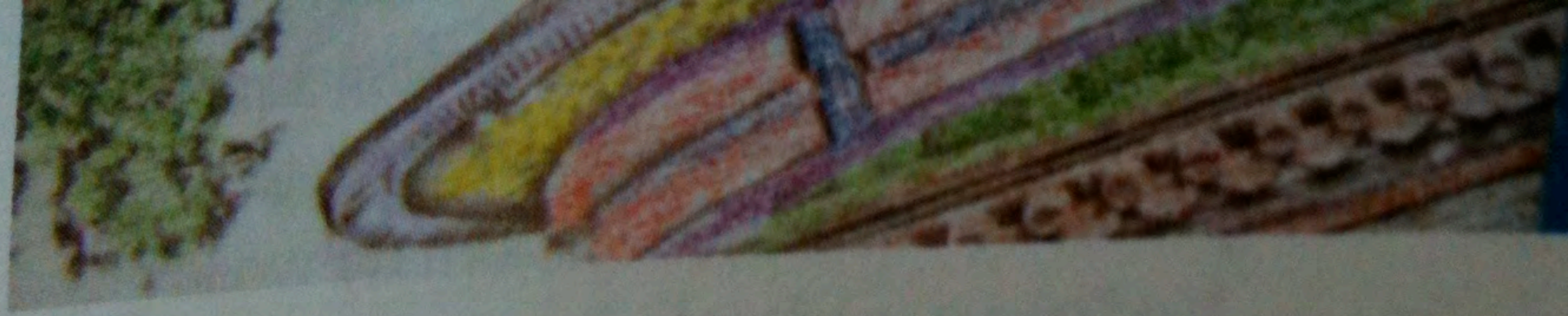


In the age of digital cameras, it's not uncommon to come home from vacation with hundreds, even thousands, of photos. Instead of asking all your friends to sit through a slideshow, try this new way to share your trip highlights.

Turning your vacation photos — or any digital images — into a themed coloring book creates an easy souvenir gift for your friends or travel companions. Bundle your outlined adventures together with crayons or colored pencils, and observe whether your friends are the type that color within the lines or go their own way. Or give children the coloring books in advance as a sneak preview of their vacation destination.

Images that work best have strong, clean lines, simple geometric shapes, and high contrast. Architectural photos make great coloring book pages, while human portraits might need a little more tweaking.

on
s,
all
w
l
an
an-
with
er
es

MATERIALS

» Computer
» Adobe Photoshop software
» Digital photos
» Color printer
» Acid-free, heavy-stock paper
» Binding machine
» Crayons or colored pencils (optional)

Summer Block Kumar is a writer and contributor to artnet, *Alarm*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Newsweek China edition*, *Small Spiral Notebook*, *Identity Theory*, and many other publications. Her work can be found at summerblock.com.

START »

1. OPEN YOUR IMAGE IN PHOTOSHOP

Make sure you have a backup copy before you begin.

2. CREATE A DUPLICATE LAYER

Choose Layer ⇒ Duplicate Layer.

3. CREATE AN IMAGE OUTLINE

Make sure your default ink color is set to black. Choose Filter ⇒ Sketch ⇒ Photocopy. You can adjust the levels of detail and darkness until you're pleased with the image. The image here uses Detail 4 and Darkness 10.

4. ADJUST LEVELS

To fine-tune your image, choose Image ⇒ Adjustments ⇒ Curves. You can also use the Lasso tool to adjust portions of the image that are lighter or darker than the rest. When you're satisfied with your picture, save the results

fied with your picture, save the results as a JPEG file.

5. CREATE MARGINS AND CAPTIONS (OPTIONAL)

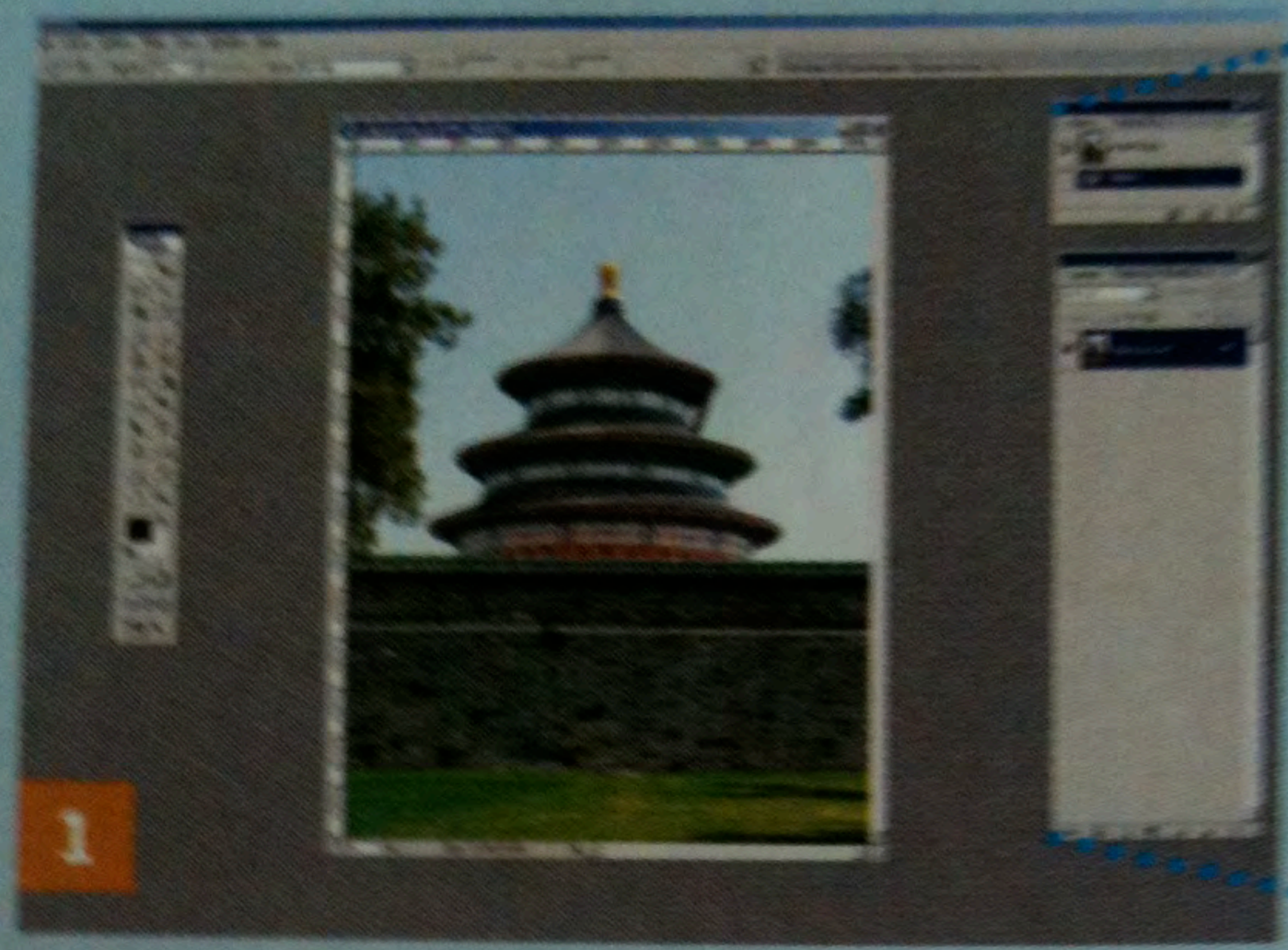
If you'd like to insert captions into your book (see photo 7), use Image ⇒ Image Size and Image ⇒ Canvas Size to change the position of your image on the page. Use the Text tool to write captions.

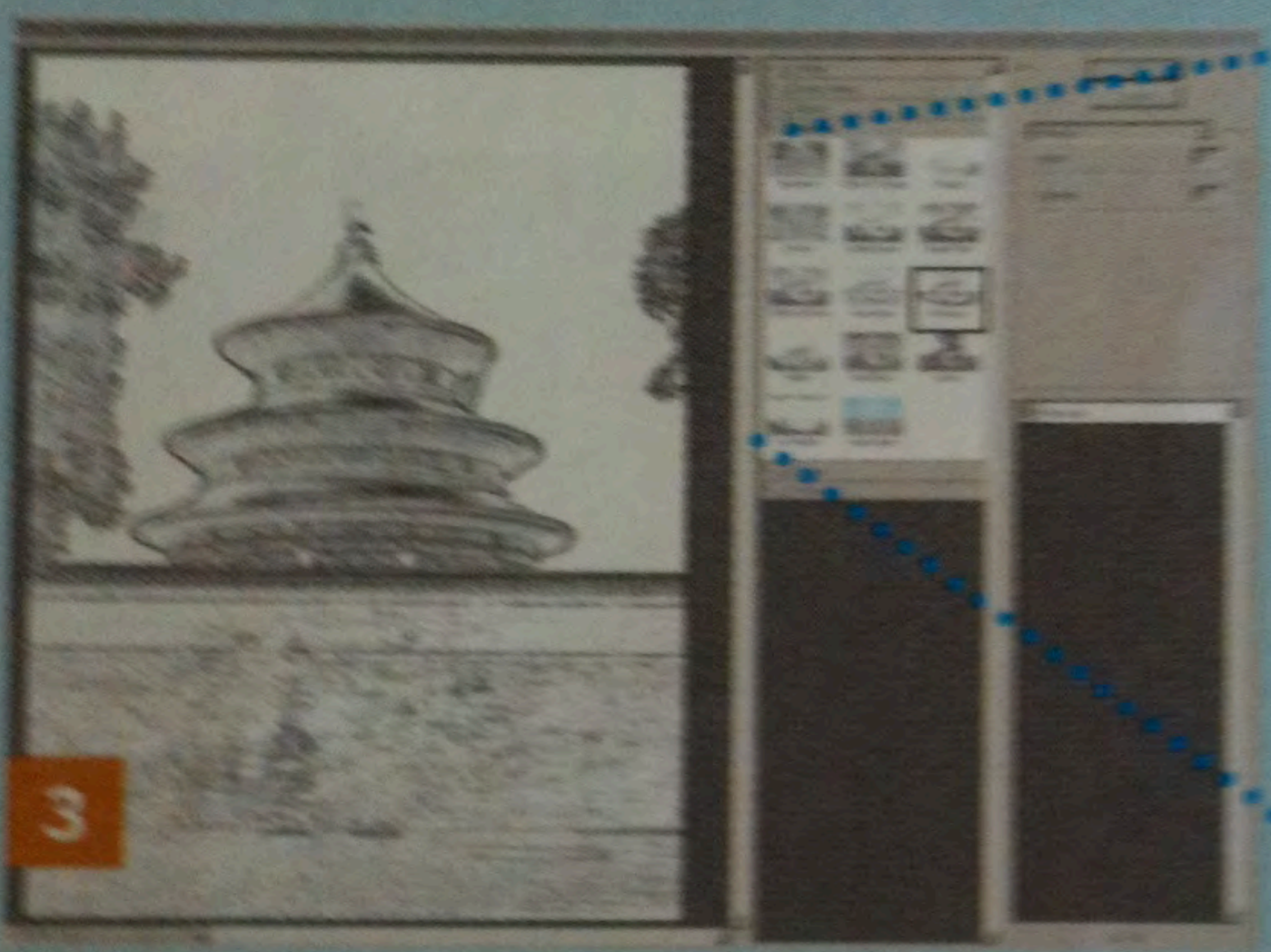
6. CREATE A COVER PAGE

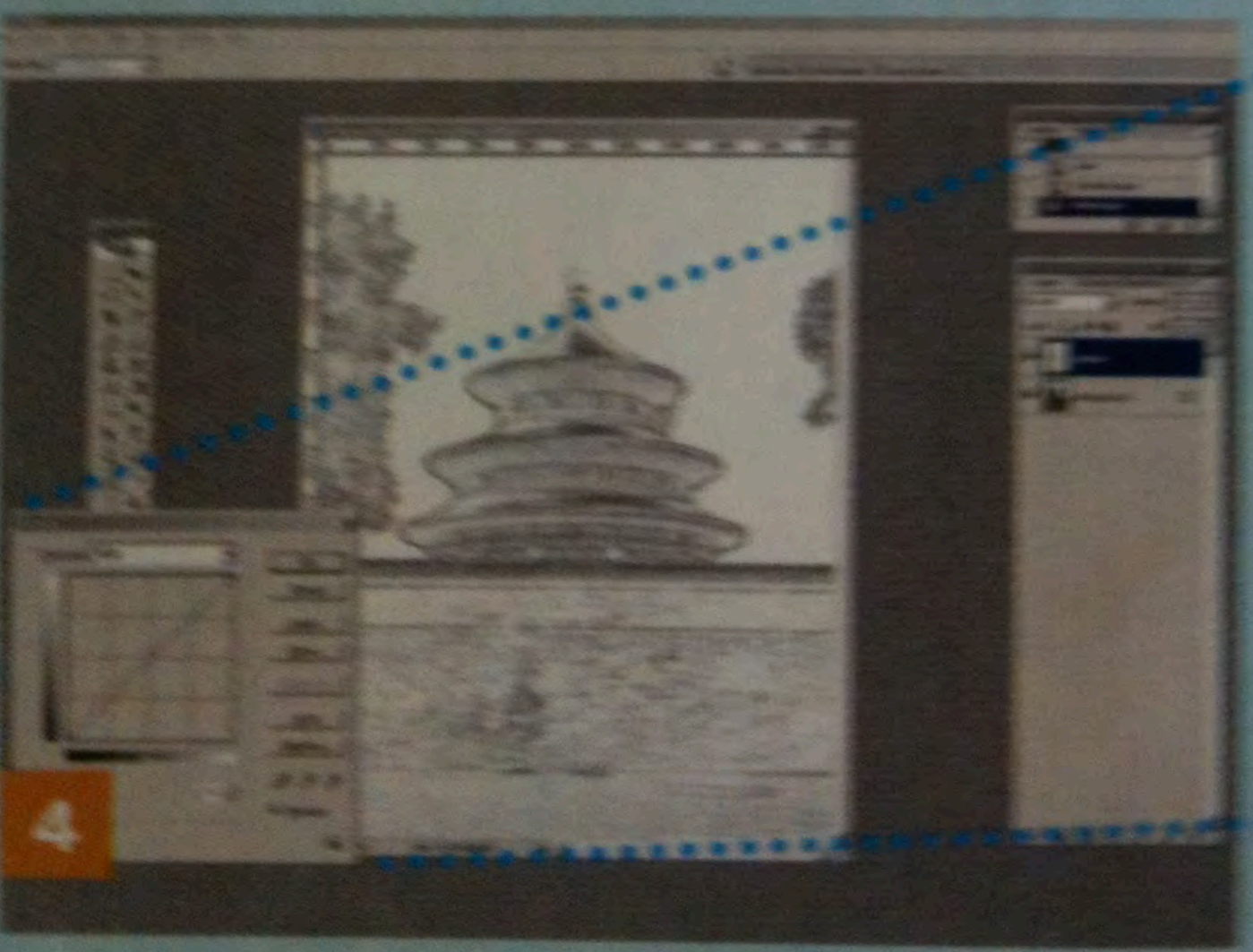
You can add a full-color title page, or use one of your black-and-white outlines as the cover.

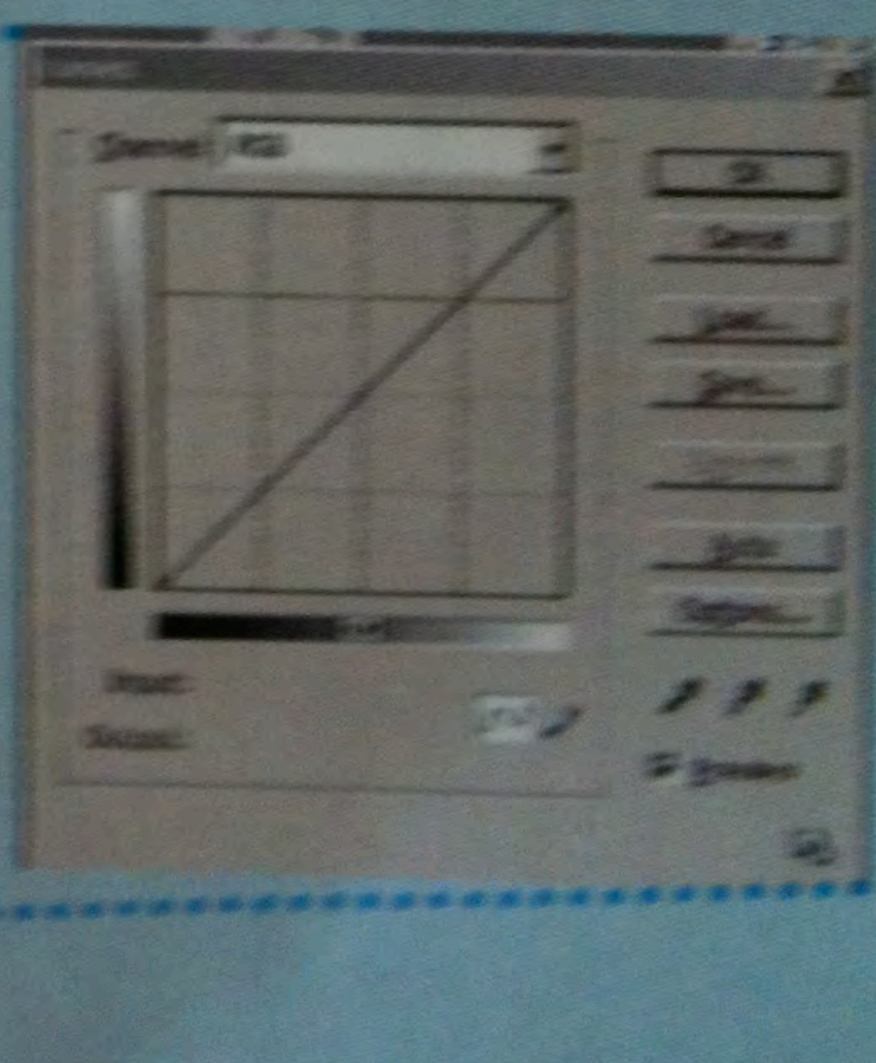
7. PRINT, BIND, AND BUNDLE

Choose File ⇒ Page Setup to select paper size. Print the coloring book pages in black and white, and the cover page in color (if you choose). For the best results, use high-quality, acid-free paper. Bind the book, and bundle it with boxes of crayons, colored pencils, or markers if it's going to be a gift.


1


3


4



4

5

6

NOTE: There
several ways t
coloring book