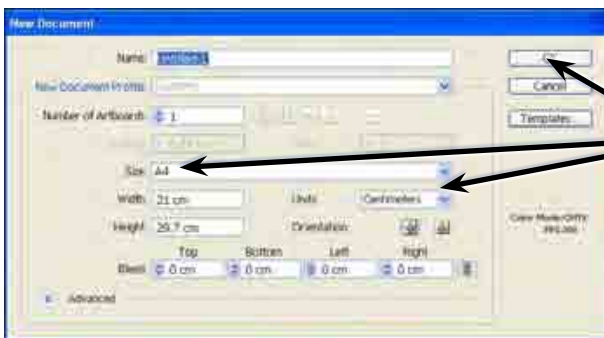


# Creating Masks

Masks allow you to display part of an image through a shape. There are two types of masks in Adobe Illustrator, Opacity Masks and Clipping Masks.

## Starting a New Document

- 1 Load Adobe Illustrator CS4 or close the current document.
- 2 In the CREATE NEW section of the WELCOME screen click on PRINT DOCUMENT to start a new document.
- 3 The PRINT DOCUMENT option will ask you for the settings of the printer you will be printing to.



- 4 Set the SIZE to A4 (or the paper size your printer uses), the UNITS to CENTIMETRES and select OK.

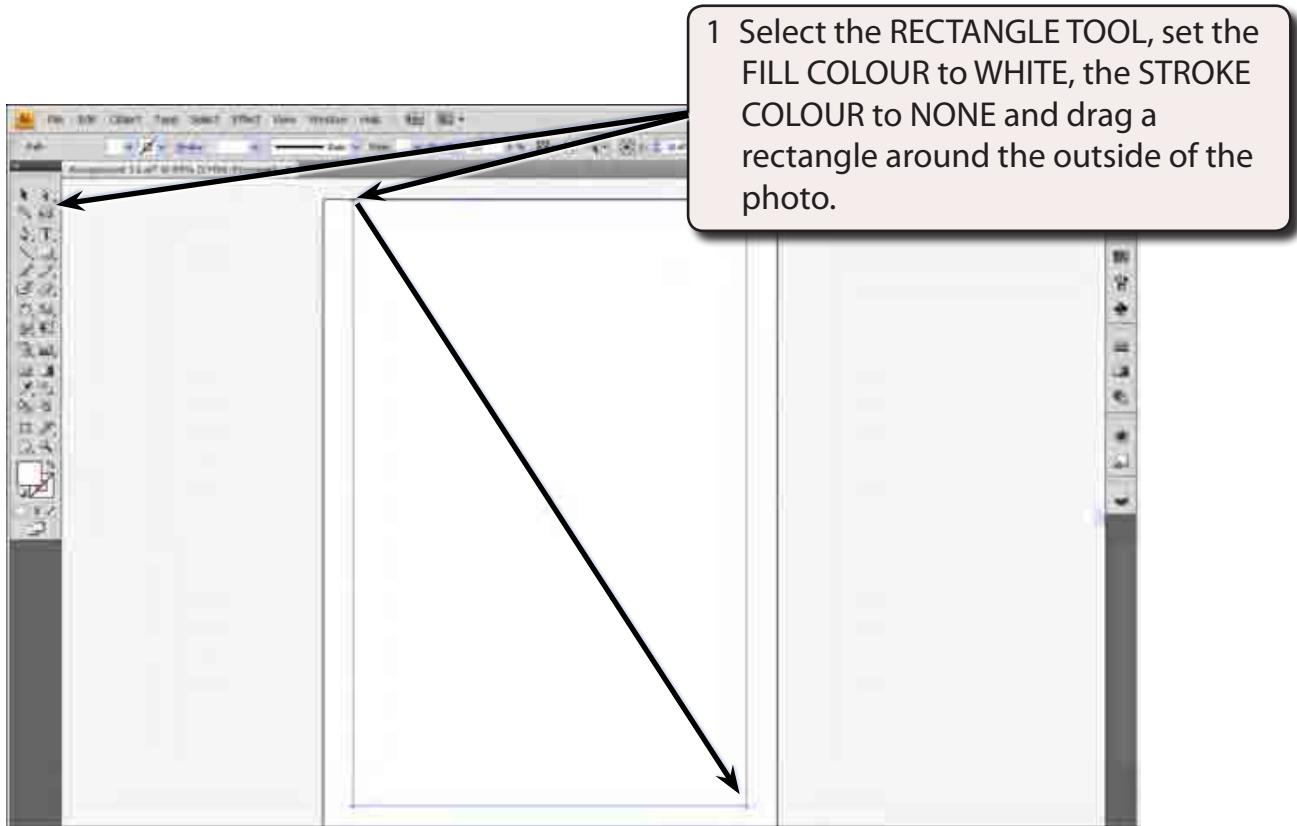
## Opacity Masks

Opacity Masks allow you to fade an image using a gradient fill. The easiest way to demonstrate this is to fade a photograph.

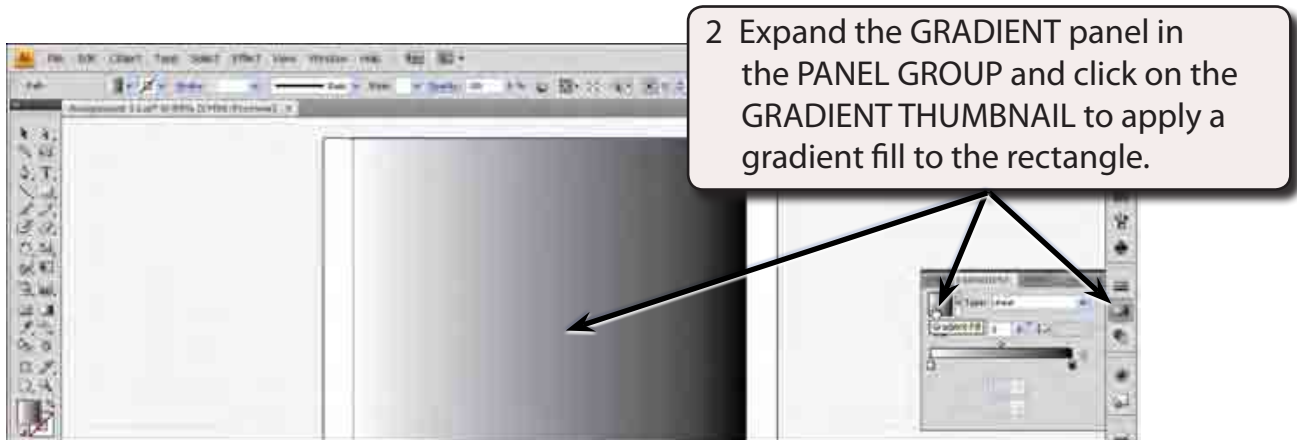
### A Importing the Image

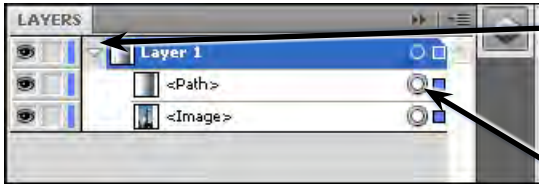
- 1 Display the FILE menu and select PLACE.
- 2 Access the ILLUSTRATOR SUPPORT FILES folder and open the CHAPTER 15 folder.
- 3 Select the BIG BEN file, turn the LINK box off and click on PLACE.
- 4 Move the image to the top centre of the ARTBOARD.

## B Applying the Opacity Mask



**NOTE:** You can use the SELECTION TOOL to adjust the corner handles of the rectangle so that it accurately covers the photo.





3 Expand the LAYERS panel in the PANEL GROUP and expand the LAYER 1 layer.

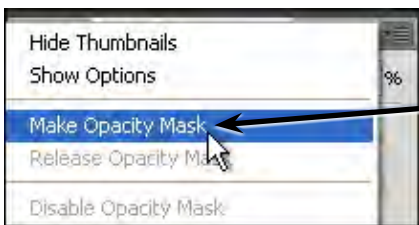
4 Hold down the SHIFT key and click on the circle to the right of the PATH (rectangle) so that both it and the IMAGE are targeted.

**NOTE:**

- i Both boxes to the right of the <path> and <image> circles should be BLUE to indicate that both objects are targeted.
- ii Targeting objects from the LAYERS panel allows you to select objects that are behind others on the ARTBOARD



5 Expand the TRANSPARENCY panel from the PANEL GROUP and notice that there is one thumbnail box. Click on the panel's OPTIONS MENU button.

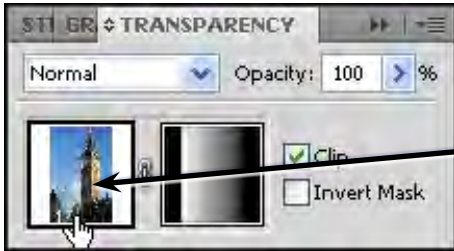


6 Select MAKE OPACITY MASK.

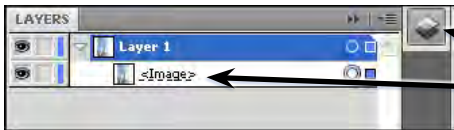


7 The mask is created and the MASK THUMBNAIL is added to the TRANSPARENCY panel.

**NOTE: The photo is being seen clearly through the lighter side of the gradient fill and faded through the darker side.**



8 The left thumbnail in the TRANSPARENCY panel is the image, the right thumbnail is the mask. Click on the left thumbnail to select the image.

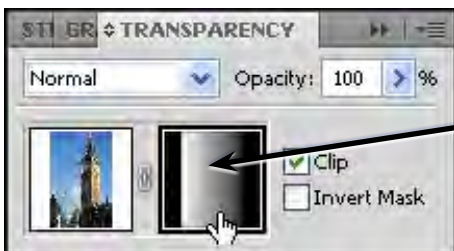


9 Expand the LAYERS panel and notice that the IMAGE is underlined to indicate that a mask is applied to it.

**NOTE: The <Path> (rectangle) has been changed to a mask and combined with the <image>.**

### C Adjusting the Mask

The mask can be adjusted at any time. To do this, its thumbnail needs to be selected from the TRANSPARENCY panel.



1 Expand the TRANSPARENCY panel and click on the MASK THUMBNAIL.