CARDS AND JOURNALS!

GOALS FOR THE DAY:

- Learn more on formatting document areas in Inkscape
- Learn how to align objects on the Inkscape canvas
- Learn how to work with guides and rulers
- Learn how to create PDFs with Inkscape

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What are your favorite types of holiday greeting cards?

SETTING UP YOUR CANVAS

We're going to create a card (or if you'd like, a journal.) First, decide if you want a card that is vertical or horizontal. Vertical cards open from left-to-right, and horizontal cards open from top-to-bottom. You'll probably want to use a vertical style for a journal.

Vertical Card
(Use Landscape)

Horizontal Card
(Use Portrait)
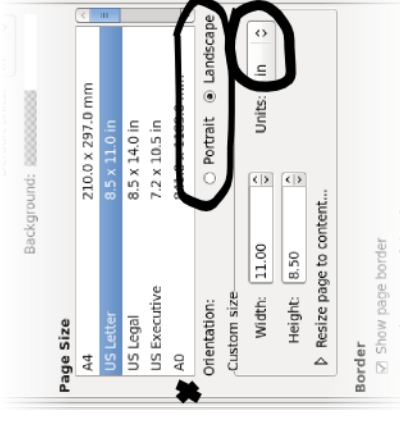
Next, we need to set up a canvas in Inkscape so you know where to put your design work. Open up Inkscape, and select the **File > New > Default** menu item. Then go to **File > Document Properties.**

Make sure **"US Letter"** is selected under **Page Size.** Select **"In"** for inches under **Units.** Next, if you are creating a vertical card, choose **'Landscape'** for **Orientation.** If you are creating a horizontal card, choose **'Portrait'** for **Orientation.** (See screenshot on the left.)

We're going to design the front of your card first. Remember that the canvas on your screen is exactly how your card will print out - you're going to have to fold the print-out to get the 'pages' of the card. Look below to see where on the card you'll need to put your design work for it to show up in the right spot.

VERTICAL CARD

BACK | FRONT

HORIZONTAL CARD

BACK

FRONT

Page dividers at the half-way point.

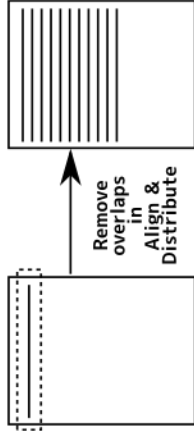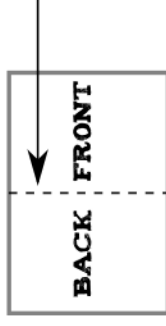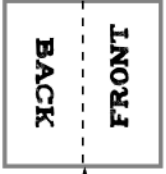# PAGE 1

CREATING YOUR DESIGN

Just as you did for the outer covers, for the inside pages of your card you might want to come up with a nice phrase or greeting and place it on the left side of the canvas. You could also put an illustration on the right side of the canvas. (Put the main greeting on the bottom for a horizontal design.)

1 If you are creating a journal, you'll want to create lines that you can use to write on. Do this by dragging out a straight line using the **pen tool** and the **CTRL** key (very similar to how you created the canvas divider!). Then, press **CTRL+D** to make a lot of copies of your line. Make 10 copies to start.

2 Next, click on the **select tool / arrow** and then click and drag a box completely around the 10 lines you just made.

Remove overlaps in **Align & Distribute**

3 Select **Object > Align and Distribute...** and under the **'Remove Overlaps'** section, under **V** (for vertical) type in **'30'** and press the button with the blue boxes to the right. (circled in the screenshot)

Remove overlaps
H: 0.0   V: 30.0

The ten lines you created should now be evenly distributed with a gap of 30 pixels between them. You can increase or decrease the gap by dragging completely around the lines with the **select tool / arrow**, then increasing or decreasing the **V** value in the **Align and Distribute** dialog and pressing the button again.

GUIDES & RULERS

You may have noticed that Inkscape displays a set of rulers along the top and left edge of the drawing area. The top ruler starts at 0 for the leftmost edge of the canvas, and the left ruler starts at zero at the bottom of the canvas and increases towards the top. The rulers will help you figure out positioning on your canvas.

If you have multiple objects (text or images) on the canvas you'd like to line up exactly, it can help to have guidelines drawn out on the canvas to measure between the two items. **You can create a guide by clicking on either ruler and dragging right or down.** Give it a try. If the guides start distracting you, you can turn them off by going to **View > Guides** in the main Inkscape menu. Select this menu item again to turn guides back on.

EXTRA CREDIT

Use the techniques you learned in class today to make a printable photo album of you and your friends' photos on Facebook! You can add captions to the photos using the text tool. Make sure you choose a really nice photo for the cover of the album!

DESIGNING THE CARD INSIDE

So now you've designed the front cover (and a back cover, if you want.) It's time to design the inside of your card or journal. We're going to create a new file for this.

SAVING THE COVERS IN SVG & PDF

Here's how to save your cover design as an **SVG** (so you can change it later) and as a **PDF** (so you can print and share it.)

1. First, save your clipart by going to **Extensions > Images > Embed Images.** Click the **Apply** button and wait for it to finish, then close the window.

2. Next, save your SVG by going to **File > Save As...** Name your file (I'm calling mine **GreetingCardCover.svg**) and **make sure the file ends in .svg!** Choose a location to save it on the left side of the dialog (I picked the **'My Files'** folder) and click on the **'Save'** button on the lower right.

3. Finally, save your card covers as a **PDF** by selecting **File > Print...** from the menu and choosing the **'Print to File'** printer. Under the **Name** field type something like **GreetingCardCover.pdf**; under **Save in Folder** choose **'My Files'**; make sure **Output Format** has **PDF** selected. Finally, press the **Print** button in the lower right.

CREATING A NEW FILE FOR THE COVERS

You're going to want to follow the same steps you followed in 'Setting up your canvas' on the front of this booklet. The difference is in what each side of the canvas means. Check out the diagrams below to understand where to place things on the canvas.

VERTICAL CARD

FILE #1
GreetingCardCover.svg

FILE #2
GreetingCardInside.svg

4 BACK	1 FRONT

2 INSIDE LEFT	3 INSIDE RIGHT

HORIZONTAL CARD

FILE #1
GreetingCardCover.svg

FILE #2
GreetingCardInside.svg

BACK 4
FRONT 1

2 INSIDE TOP
3 INSIDE BOTTOM

DESIGNING THE COVERS

How will you know where the boundary is between the front cover and the back cover? We'll create a divider between the two sides and center it on your canvas.

Select the **pen tool** from the toolbox on the left. Click above your canvas vertically and in the center horizontally and hold down the **CTRL key** on your keyboard. As you hold CTRL you'll notice it snaps the red line that appears. Move your mouse to below the canvas, centered vertically, in a straight line from the first click you made. **(Click from left to right on the canvas if your card is horizontal!)**
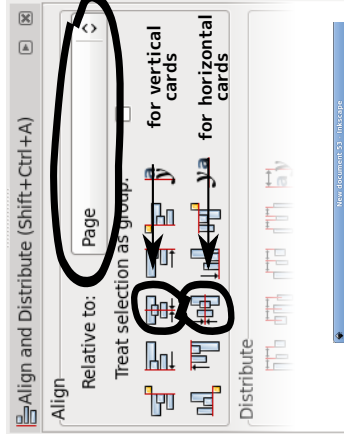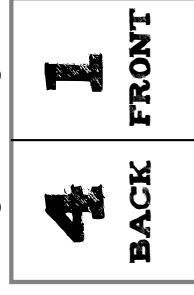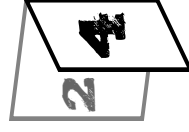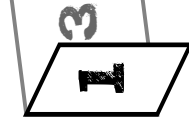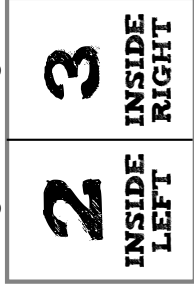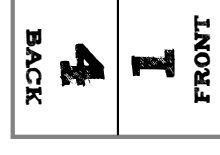
CLICK 1
CLICK 2

CENTERING THE DIVIDER

Don't worry if your divider isn't perfectly centered on your canvas. Inkscape can take care of that for us. In the Inkscape menu, select **Object > Align and Distribute...** - this will take care of the centering for us. Click on the **select tool / arrow** in your toolbox, and then click on your divider so that it is selected. (If it's selected, you'll see black arrows and a dotted box all around it.) Next, go to the **Align and Distribute** dialog that should now be visible on the right side of your Inkscape window. Under **Relative To** select **'Page'** and then....

VERTICAL CARDS:
Click the **'Center on Vertical Axis'** button.

HORIZONTAL CARDS:
Click the **'Center on Horizontal Axis'** button.

CREATING YOUR DESIGN!

If you're designing a card or journal, you might want to start out using the text tool. Write 'My Journal' on the front if it's a journal, and think of a nice phrase if it's a card, such as 'Happy Holidays!' or 'Season's Greetings!'

There is a lot of nice clipart available right from Inkscape that you can use in your design. Go to **File > Import from Open Clip Art Library** in the Inkscape menu, and search for clip art. When you click on the **Open** button, the artwork will be placed into your canvas. It will be bitmap, though. If you want to be able to change the artwork, visit **http://openclipart.org** in your web browser and download the SVG from there.

Align and Distribute (Shift+Ctrl+A)

Align
Relative to: Page
Treat selection as group.

for vertical cards
for horizontal cards

Distribute

Christmas 2010

Happy Holidays!

An example cover design. Note the back covertext has been flipped upside-down. Why?