



The above scale may not appear accurate on your monitor. See your text book for a better example.

Activity: Identify the 11 Values in a Print

Purpose:

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- To introduce you to the Zone System
- Practice identifying the 11 Zones

Procedure:

- Select a full-scale photograph you have printed (a work print is fine)
- Identify the 11 Zones with a permanent marker (possible only with a full-scale print) If you find you cannot identify all the zones, please include those you can find. Write the zone number on the margins of the photograph and draw arrows to the areas of the photograph that match the tone for that zone.

What is the Zone System?

"The Zone System is a photographic technique for determining optimal film exposure and development, formulated by Ansel Adams and Fred Archer in 1941. The Zone System provides photographers with a systematic method of precisely defining the relationship between the way they visualize the photographic subject and the final results." This definition comes directly from Wikipedia and includes more information.

Zone Descriptions

- 0 Pure black
- I Near black, with slight tonality but no texture
- II Textured black; the darkest part of the image in which slight detail is recorded
- III Average dark materials and low values showing adequate texture
- IV Average dark foliage, dark stone, or landscape shadows
- V Middle gray: clear north sky; dark stone, average weathered wood
- VI Average Caucasian skin; light stone; shadows on snow in sunlit landscapes
- VII Very light skin; shadows in snow with acute side lighting
- VIII Lightest tone with texture: textured snow
- IX Slight tone without texture; glaring snow
- X Pure white: light sources and specular reflections