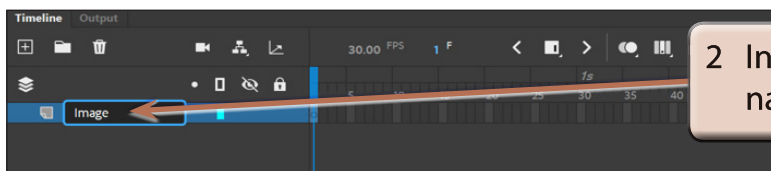# Mask Animations

Some interesting animations can be created using a layer to cover (or mask) part of another layer. The portion of the layer being covered can only be seen though whatever shape is drawn in the mask layer.

Creating a Mask over a Background

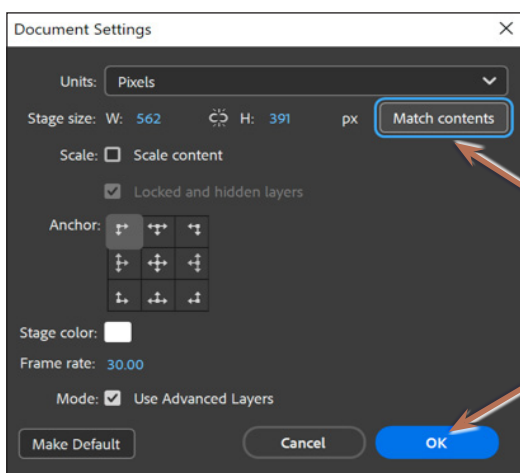For this first example a mask will be used to display part of a photo of London.

A   Creating the Background Layer

1   Load Adobe Animate or close the current files and start a FULL HD file.

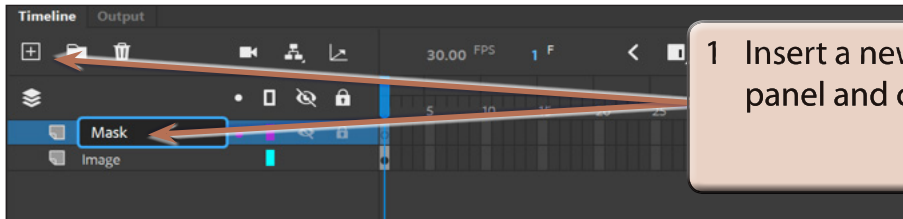2   In the TIMELINE panel alter the name of the layer to IMAGE.

3   Display the FILE menu, highlight IMPORT and select IMPORT TO STAGE.

4   Access the ANIMATE SUPPORT FILES, open the CHAPTER 12 folder and import the LONDON image.

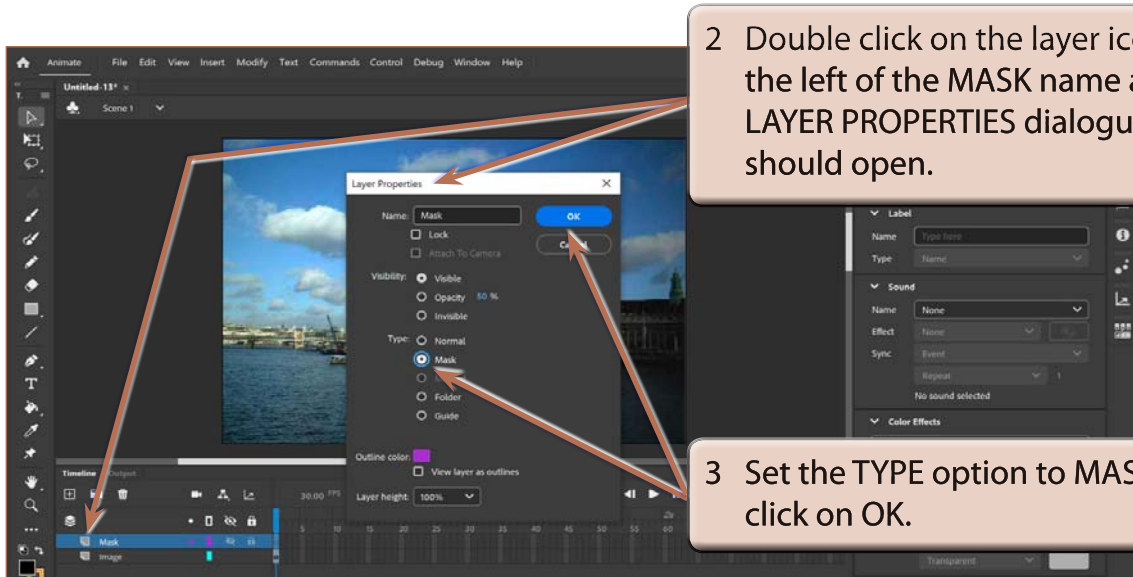5   Set the VIEW to FIT IN WINDOW then display the MODIFY menu and select DOCUMENT.

6   Select MATCH CONTENTS and select OK so that the stage dimensions are altered to match the size of the image.

B Inserting the Mask Layer

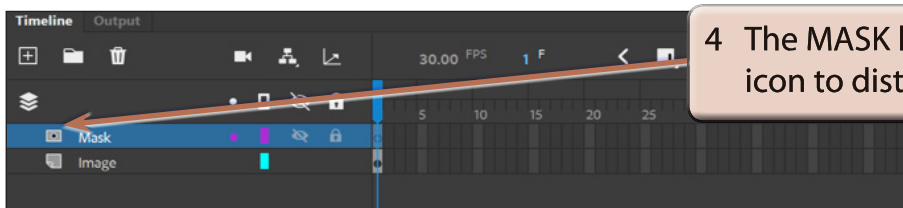For a mask to operate, a layer must be converted to a MASK layer.

1 Insert a new layer in the TIMELINE panel and call it:

Mask

2 Double click on the layer icon to the left of the MASK name and the LAYER PROPERTIES dialogue box should open.

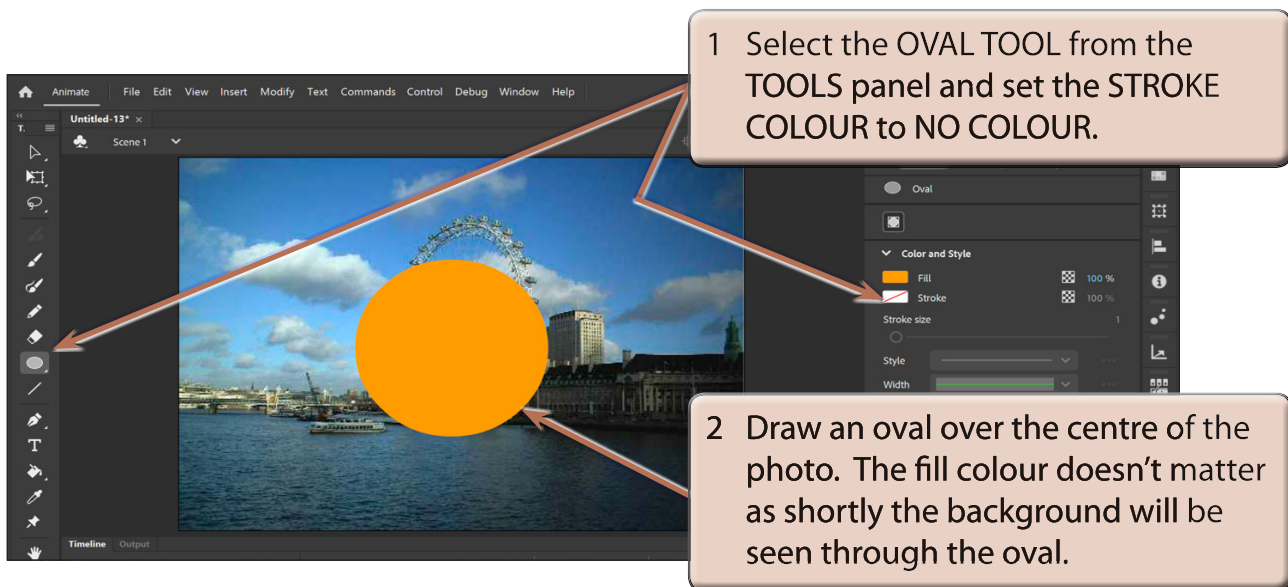3 Set the TYPE option to MASK and click on OK.

NOTE: You can also RIGHT+CLICK or CONTROL+CLICK on the layer name and select MASK from the CONTEXTUAL (or SHORTCUTS) menu.

4 The MASK layer is given a different icon to distinguish it as a mask layer.
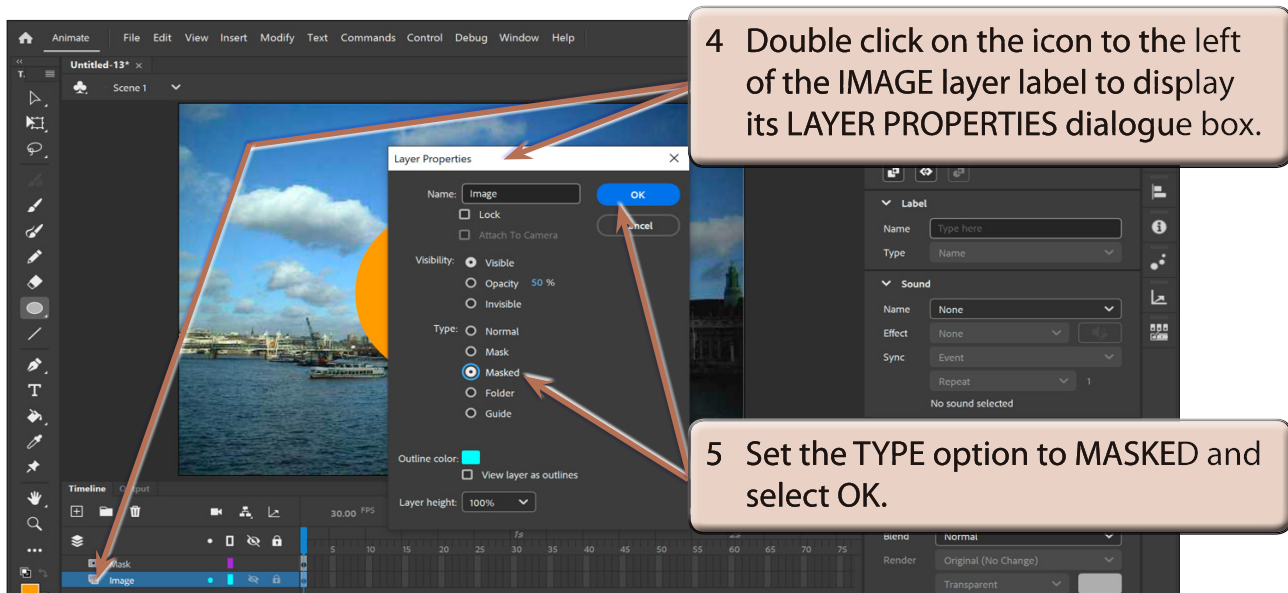
C   Creating the Mask

A shape now needs to be drawn in the MASK layer. The background will only be seen through this shape. You can use the shape tools such as the OVAL and RECTANGLE TOOLS to create the shape or use the BRUSH tools to draw a more complicated shape.

1   Select the OVAL TOOL from the TOOLS panel and set the STROKE COLOUR to NO COLOUR.

2   Draw an oval over the centre of the photo. The fill colour doesn't matter as shortly the background will be seen through the oval.

3   The program needs to be told which layer is to be masked. In this case it is the IMAGE layer.
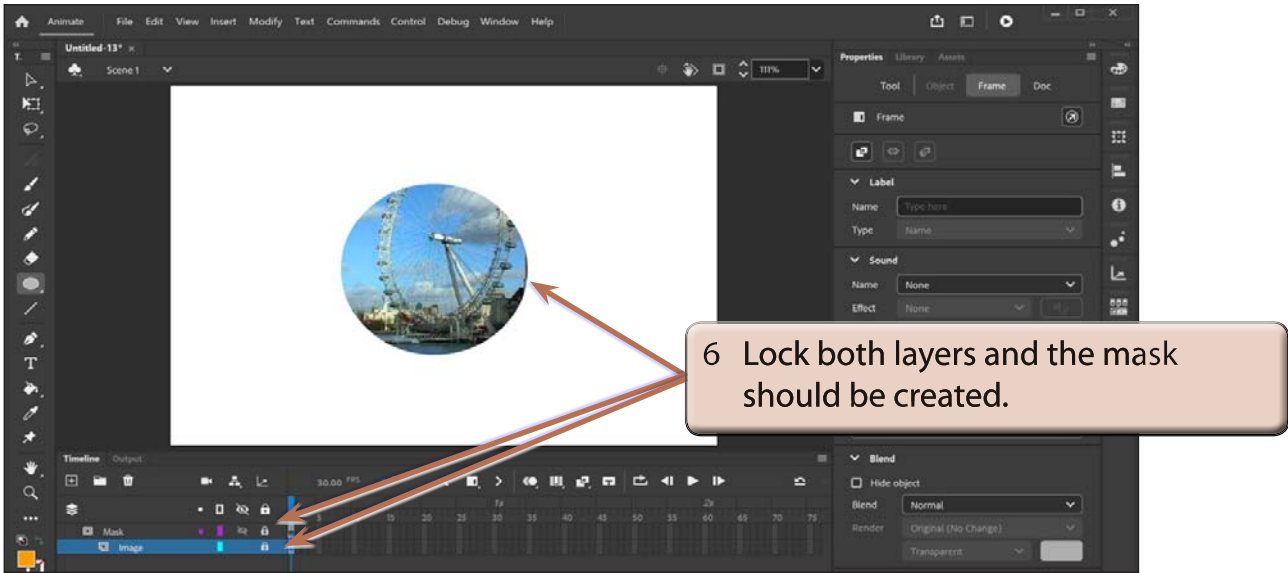

4   Double click on the icon to the left of the IMAGE layer label to display its LAYER PROPERTIES dialogue box.

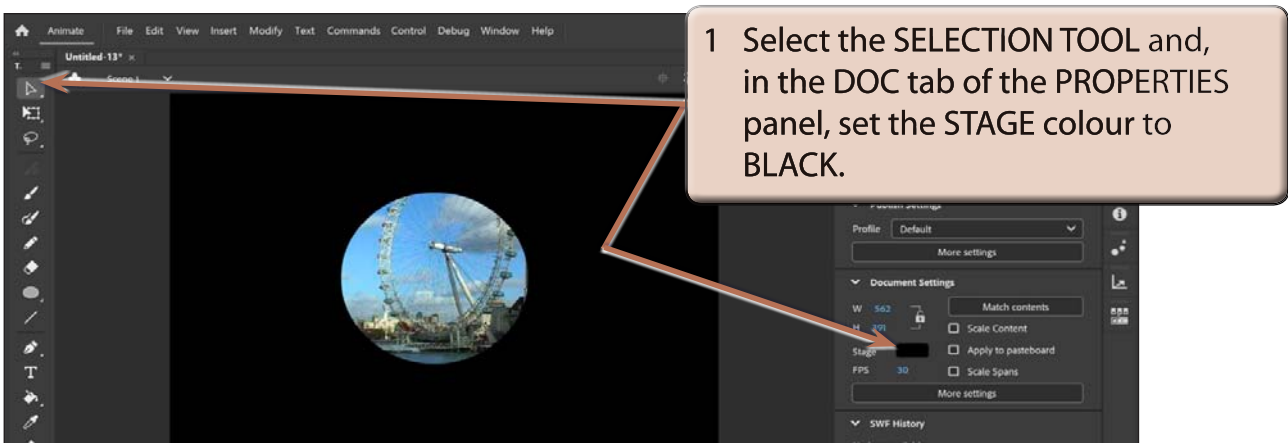5   Set the TYPE option to MASKED and select OK.

> **NOTE:** i   **The IMAGE layer is indented under the MASK layer to indicate that it is masked by the MASK layer.**
>
> ii   **You can drag a layer to the lower edge of a MASK layer to quickly set it to a MASKED layer.**

6   Lock both layers and the mask should be created.

D   Background Colours

Some interesting effects can be created by changing the stage colour.

1   Select the SELECTION TOOL and, in the DOC tab of the PROPERTIES panel, set the STAGE colour to BLACK.

2   Try some other stage colours if you wish to.