

# Creating vector graphics (SVGs) for Survey123

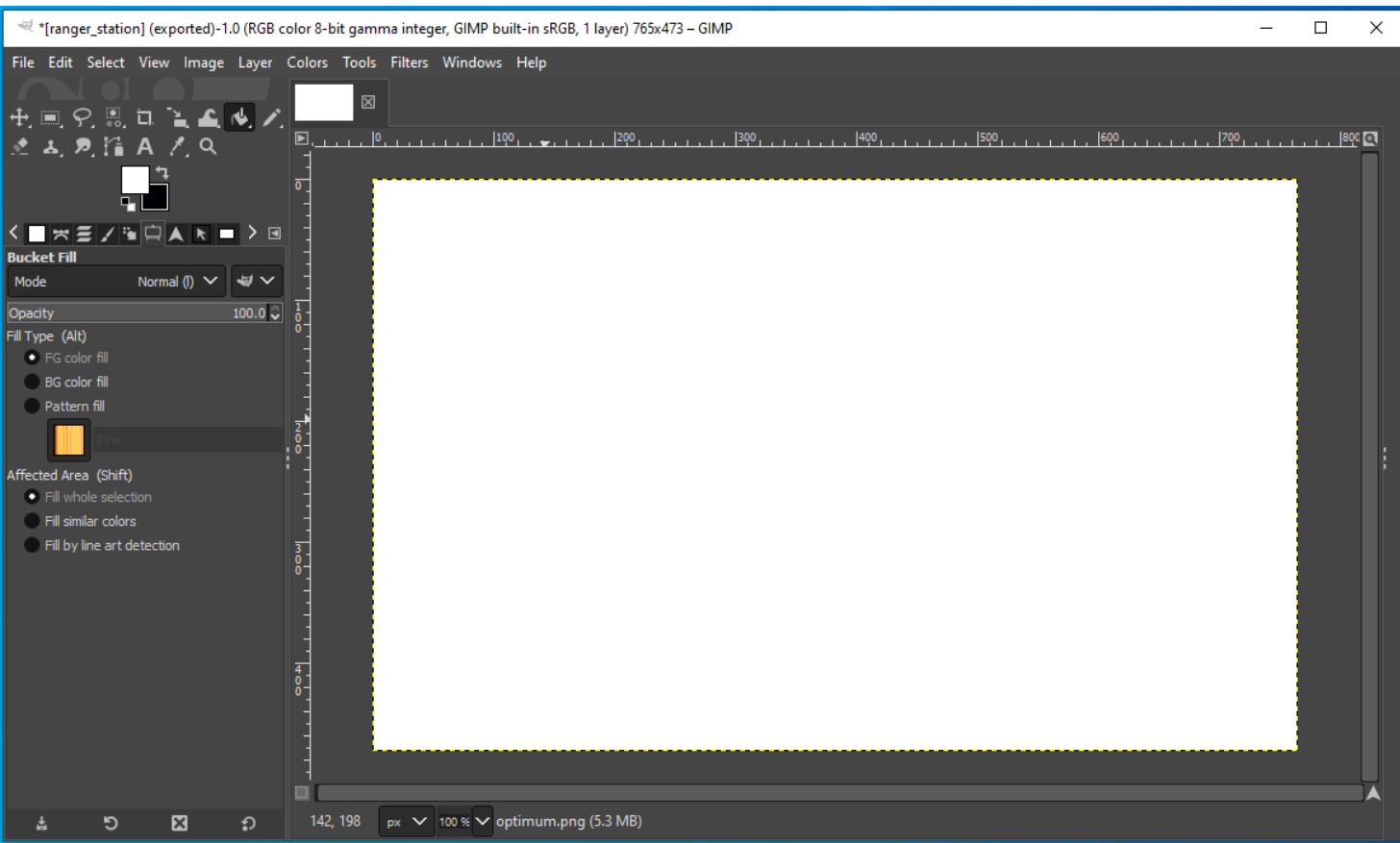
instructions are intended to expand in the process for creating vector graphics.

You will need two pieces of software installed on your PC.

- 1) [GNU Image Manipulation Program \(GIMP\)](#)
- 2) [Inkscape](#)

Both are free and widely used,

- 1) First, you need to create your graphic. I find this is easiest to do in GIMP, which essentially the free version of Photoshop. This package is sufficiently widely used that a Google search is likely to answer any usage questions you have.
- 2) The graphics ratio of Survey123 is fixed. It doesn't matter what dimensions your original image are, Survey123 will format it to occupy a set amount of space. As a result, any image that doesn't fit the survey format will be shrunk and surrounded by white space.
- 3) Open a blank graphic in Gimp.



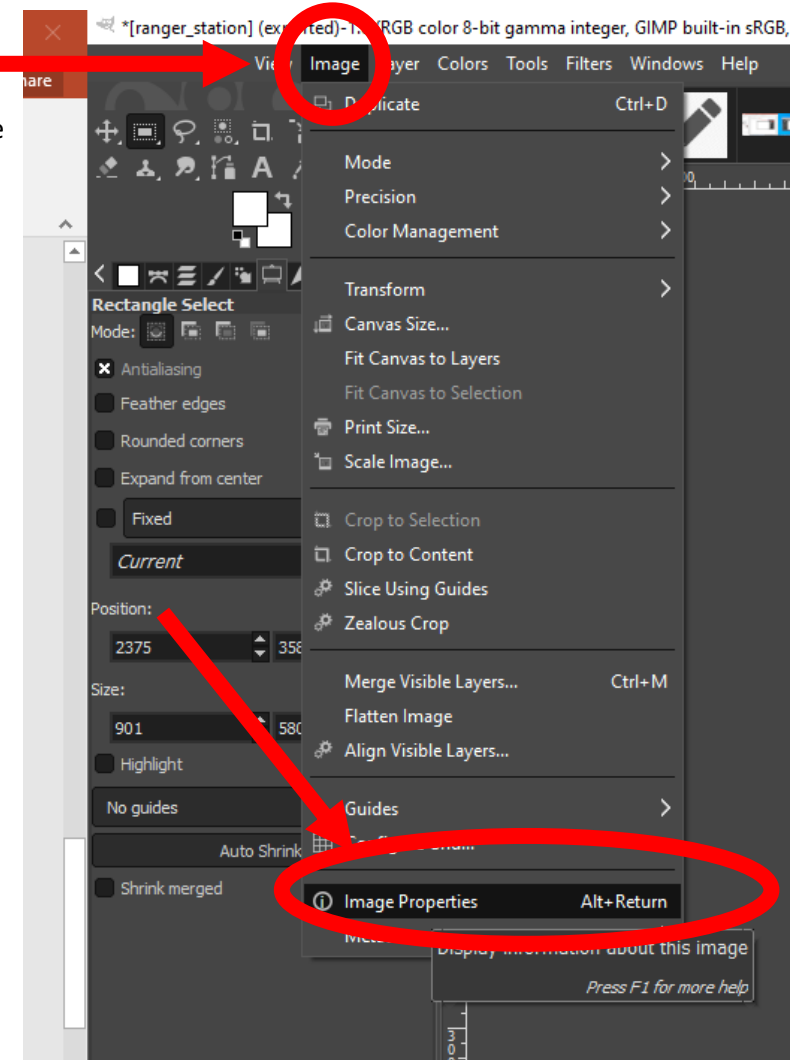
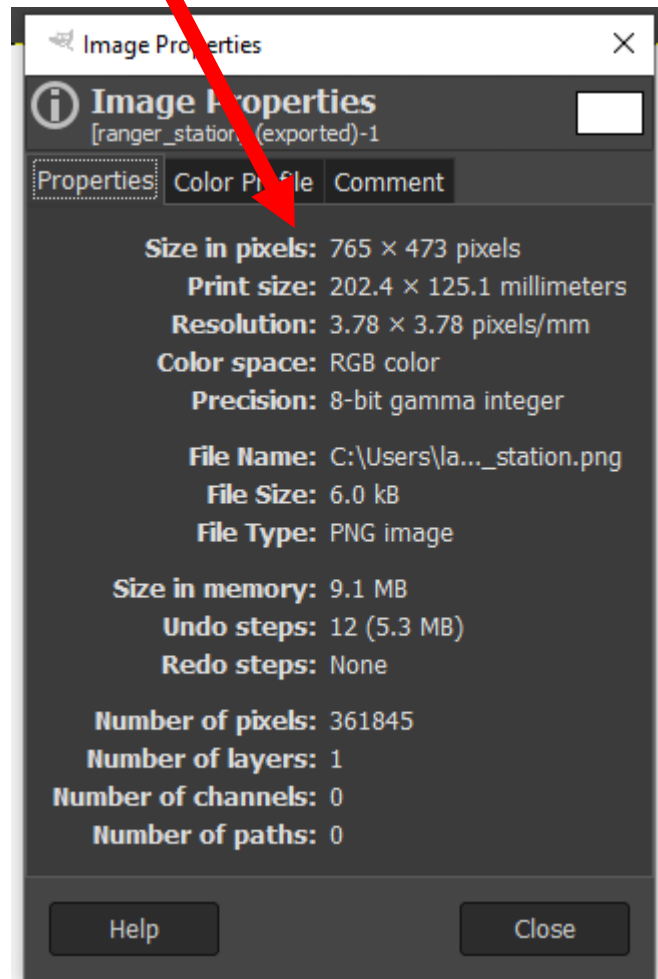
7) The first you should do is draw in the boxes corresponding to your question choices. (ie the values in the “name” column that corresponds to the “list\_name” column)

8) For this exercise we will assume that there 8 choices, and so we will draw 8 boxes.

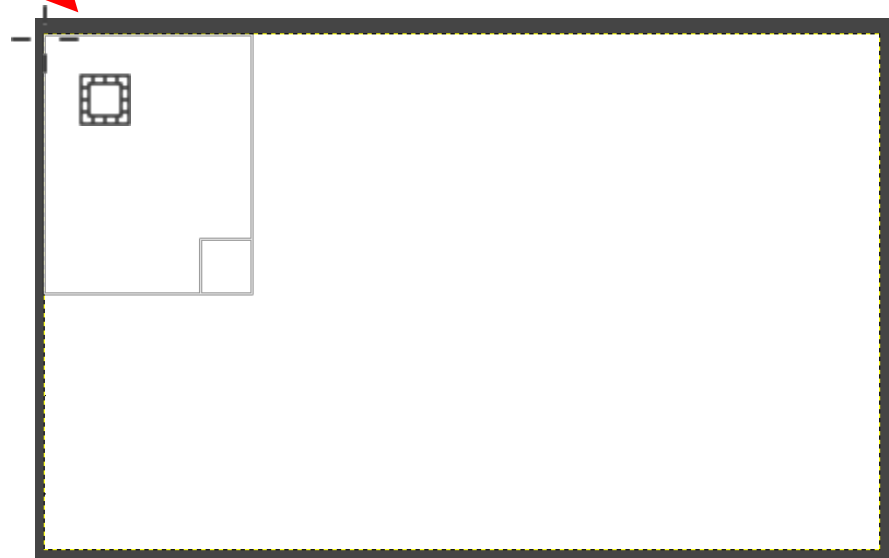
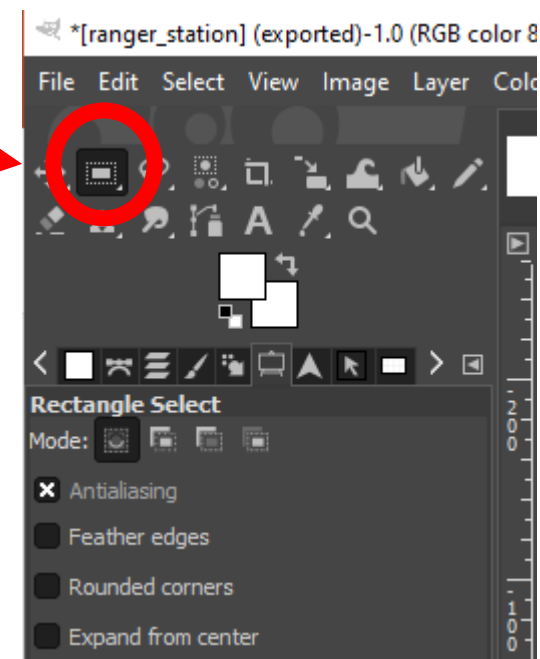
9) Open the Image > properties dialogue

10) Take note of the image size in pixels.

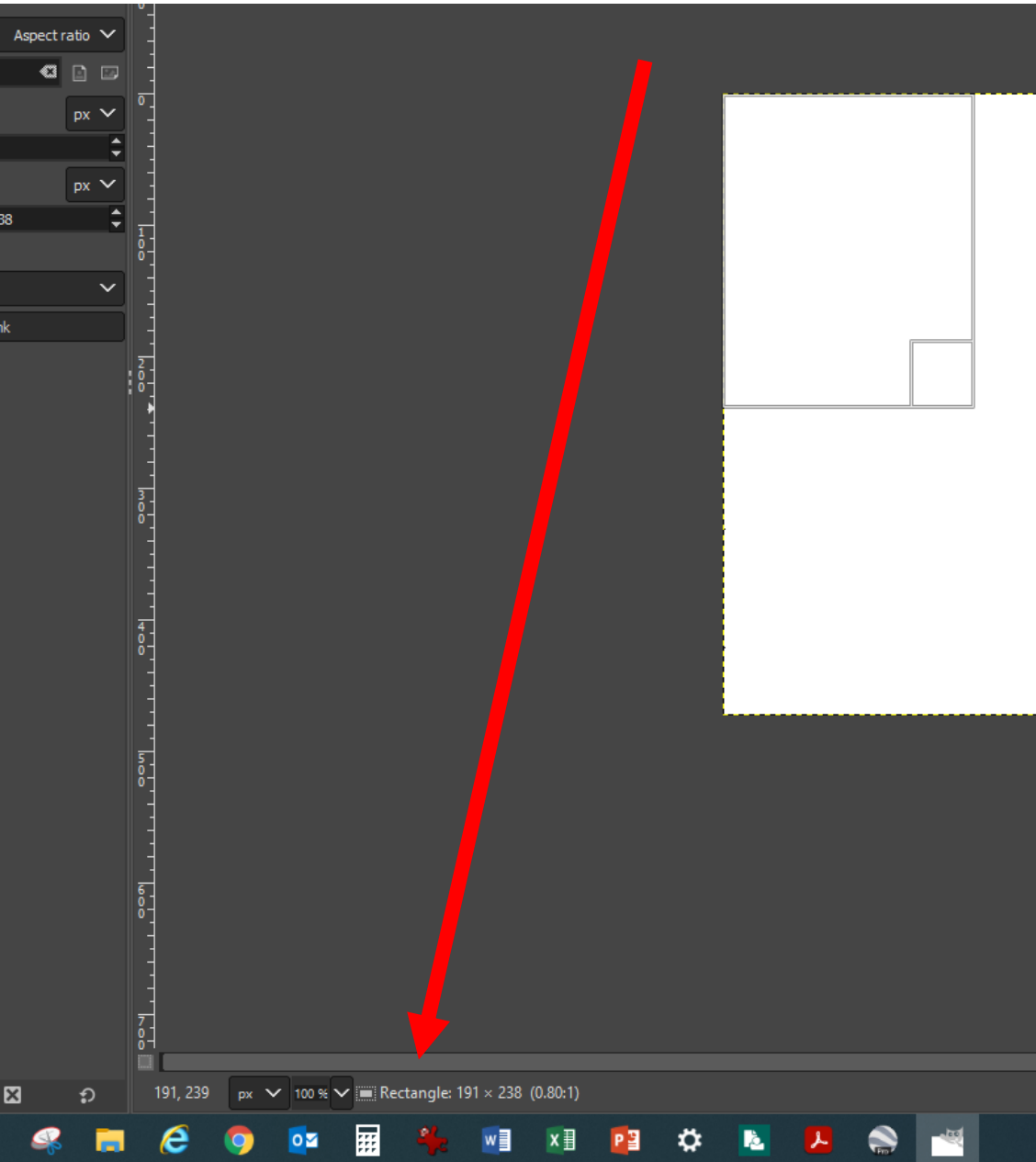
11) The “size in pixels” determines the size of your boxes. In this case, if we want to have a 4 x 2 grid, the boxes will need to be  $(765/4) \times (473/2)$  or 191 x 238 pixels



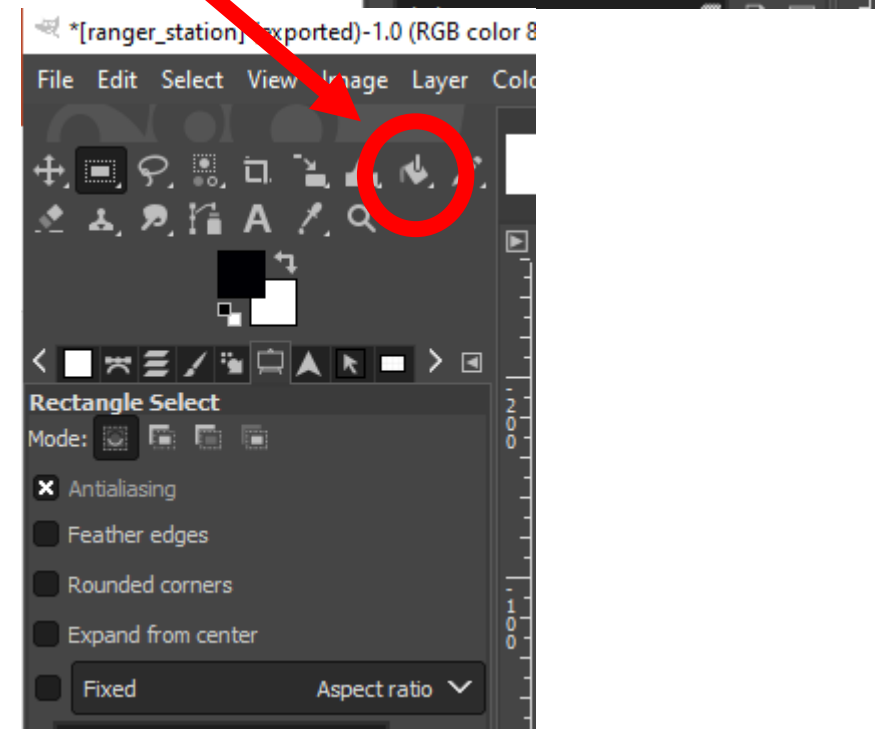
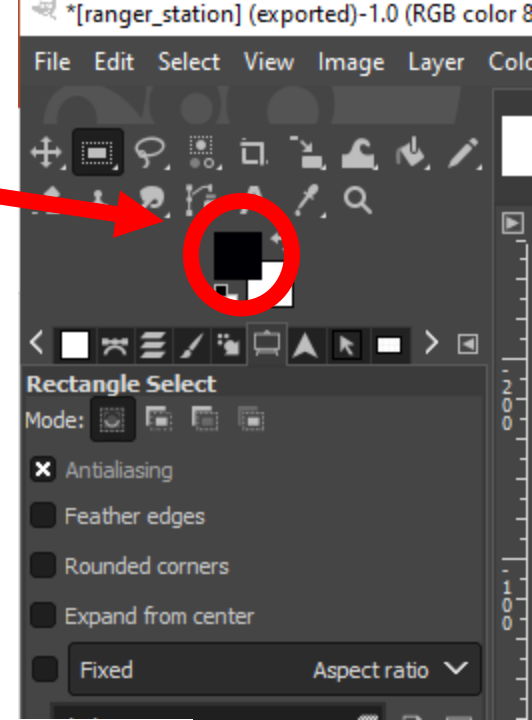
- 11) Choose the "rectangle select" tool from the toolbox.
- 12) Put the "rectangle select" cursor in the top left of the image.



13) Then click and drag the cursor down and across until the rectangle is 191 x 238  
(read the rectangle dimensions down the bottom of the screen)

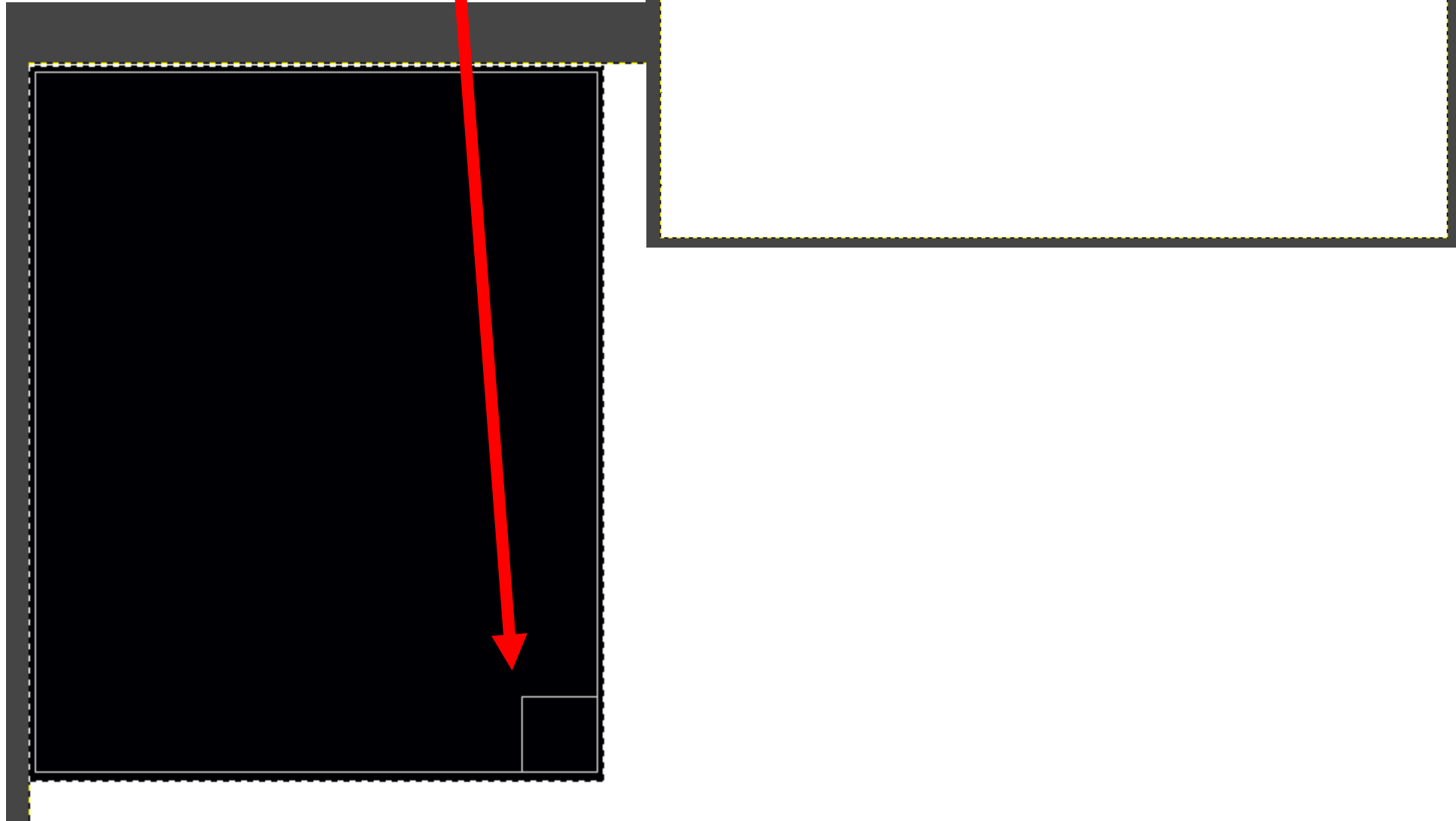


- 14) Make sure that the foreground colour is set to black
- 15) And then choose the bucket fill tool from the toolbox
- 16) The click inside the rectangle

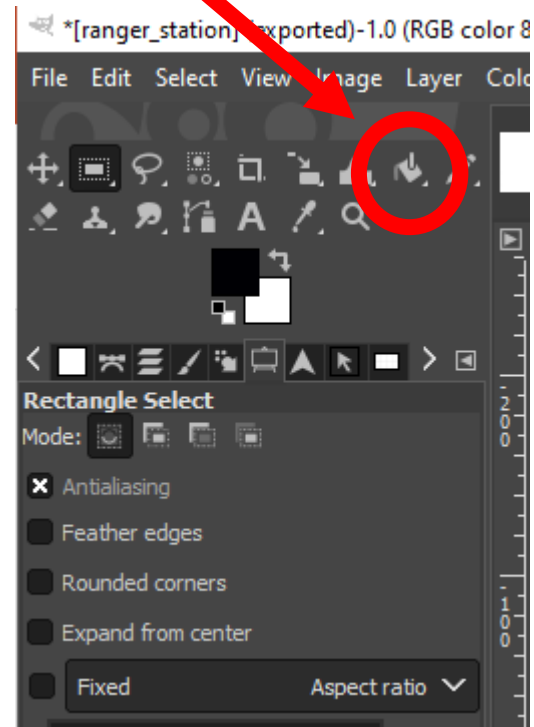
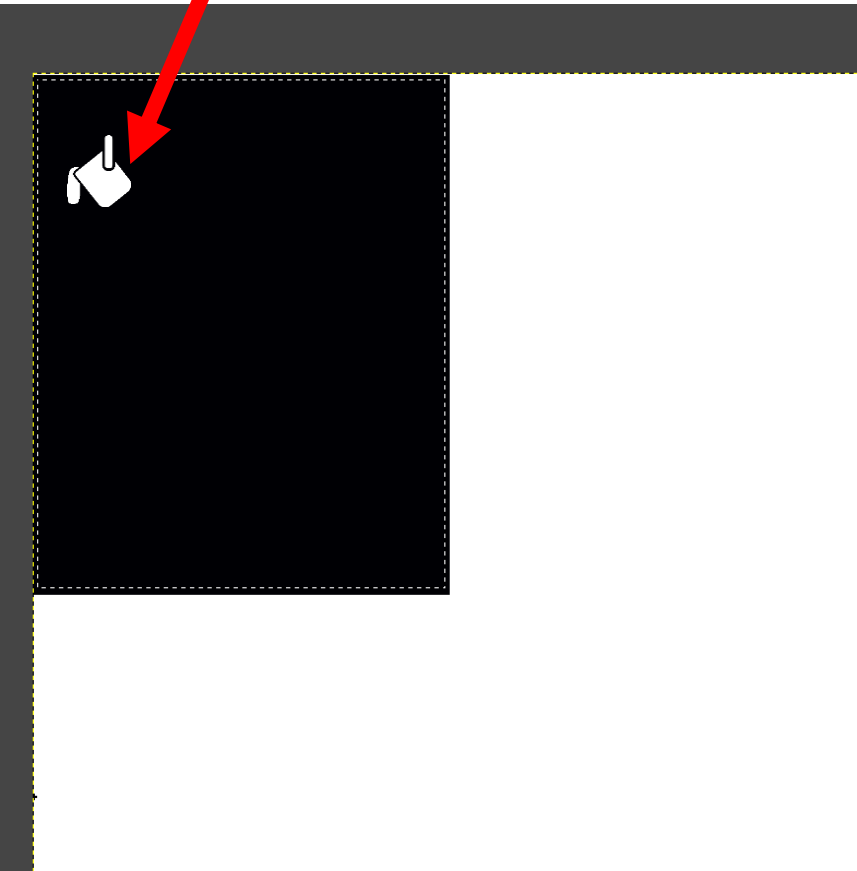
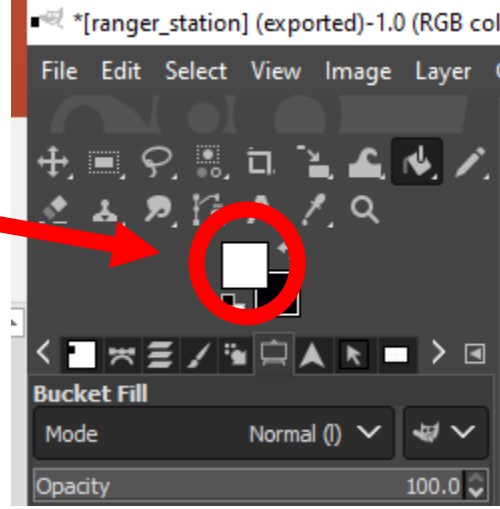


17) And the rectangle will become black.

18) Repeat steps 11 and 12, but this time draw your rectangle just inside the black rectangle

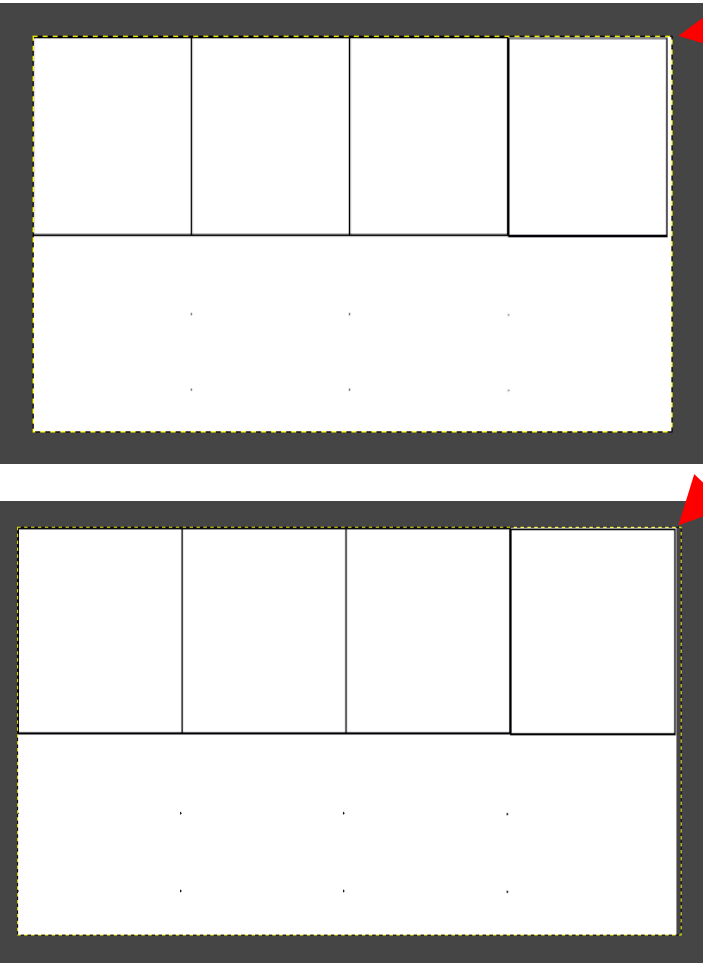


- 19) Make sure that the foreground colour is set to white
- 20) And then choose the bucket fill tool from the toolbox
- 21) The click inside the rectangle





- 22) And the centre of the rectangle will turn white
  - 23) Repeat this for all the boxes (or copy and paste this one.)
  - 24) If your boxes aren't perfect, don't worry too much.
- You can always copy and rescale the finished product to make it fit.

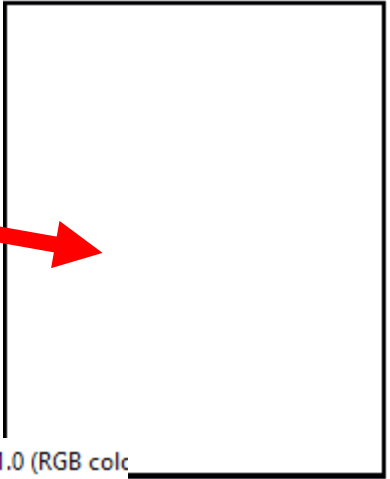
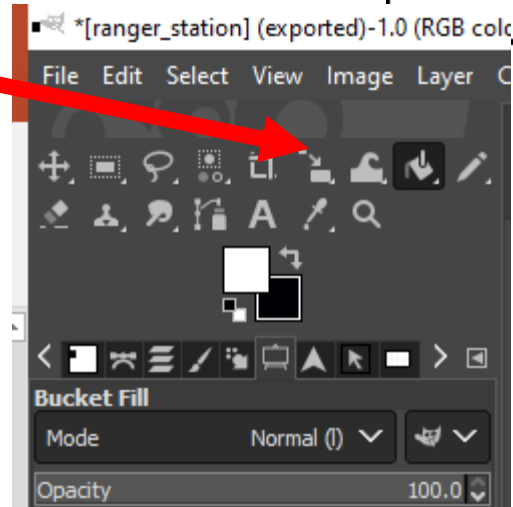


Boxes don't quite fit image

Select all.  
Copy. Paste

Scale pasted layer

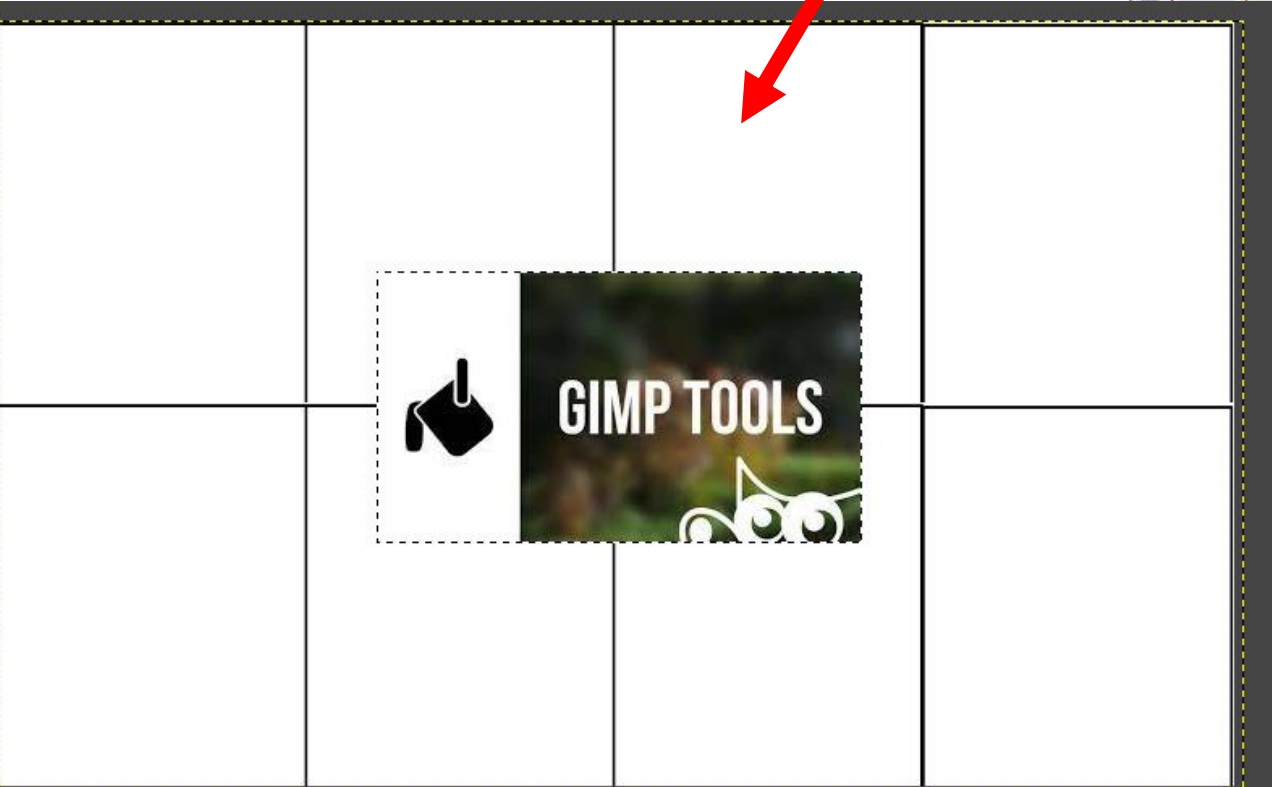
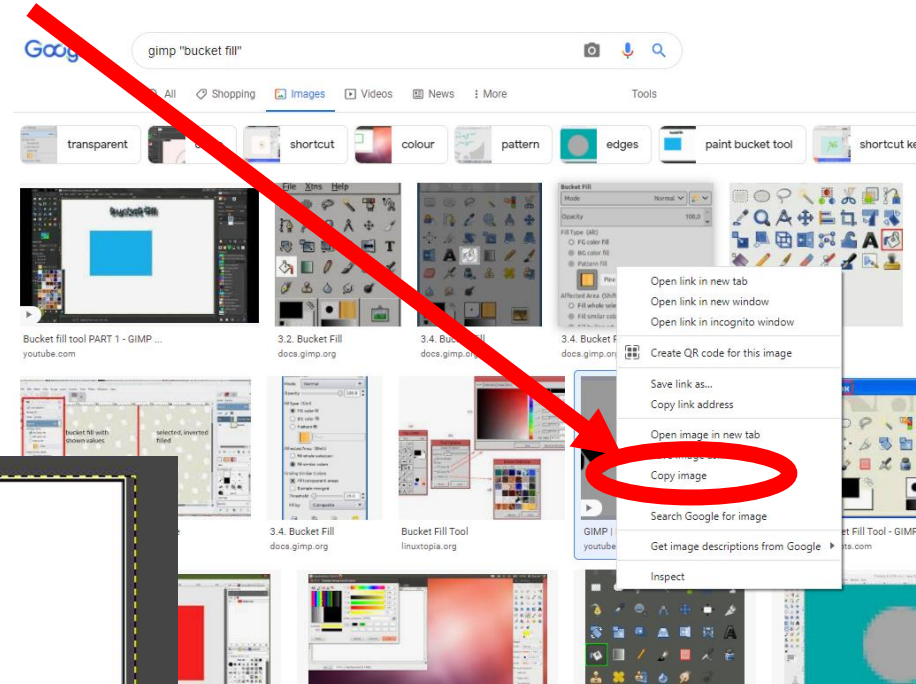
Move image until it fits.



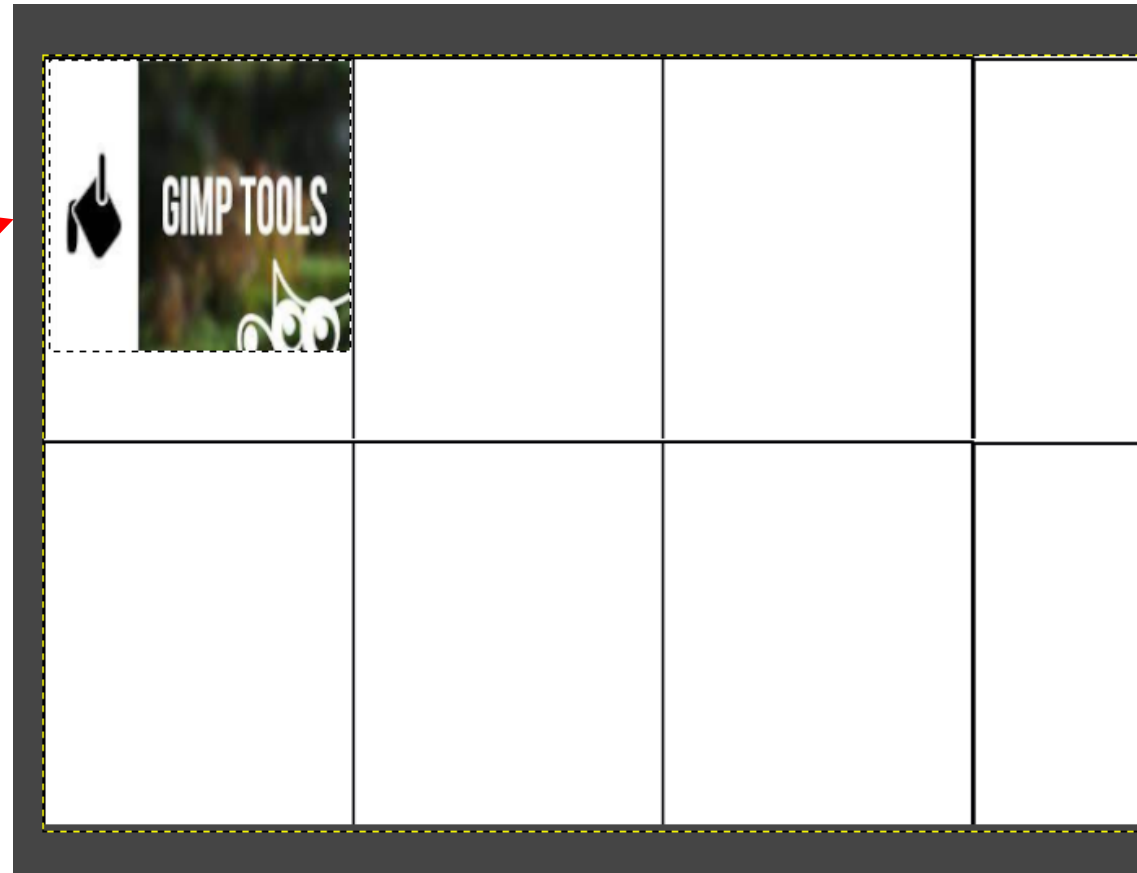
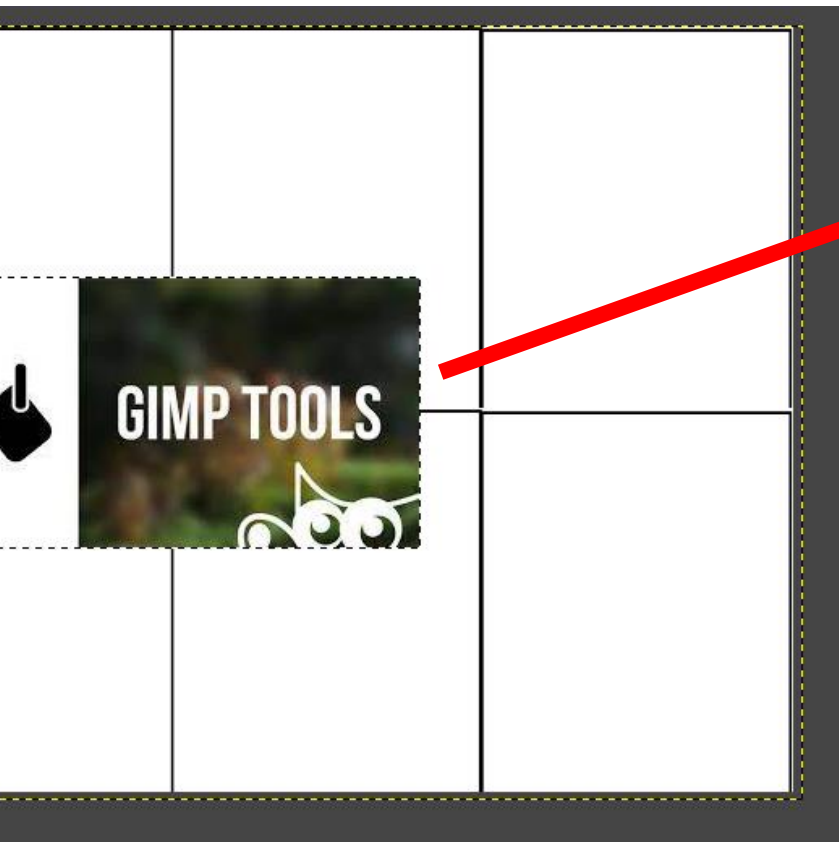
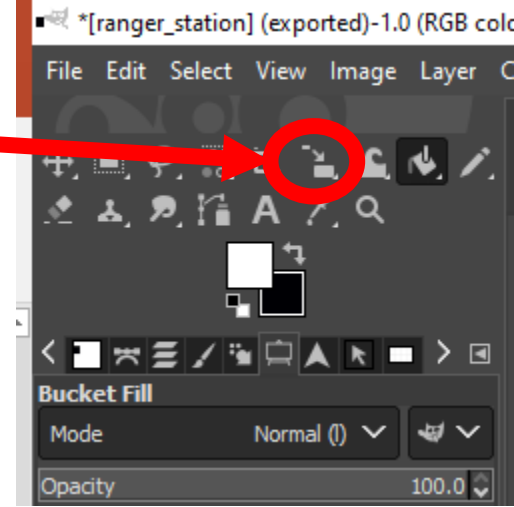
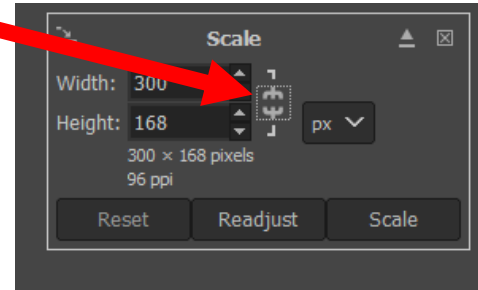
25) Now that we have our boxes, we can add the underlying graphics.

26) This is as simple as opening the image in whatever program you wish (or in a web browser), right clicking it and selecting "copy"

27) Then open the box image you are working with in gimp and pressing "Ctrl + v" to paste.



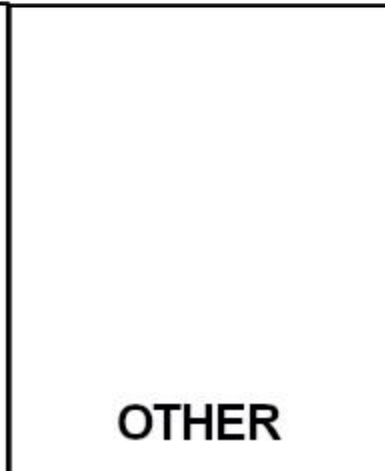
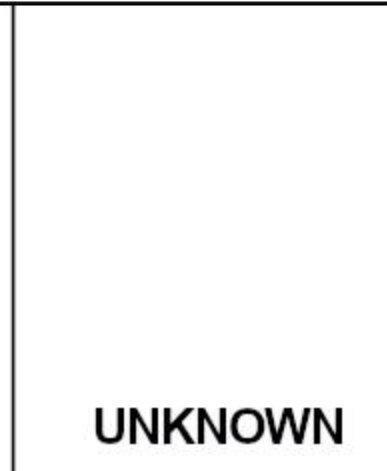
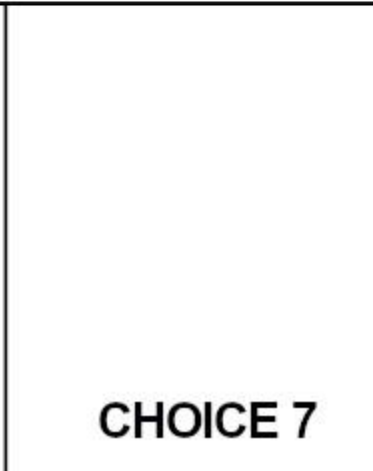
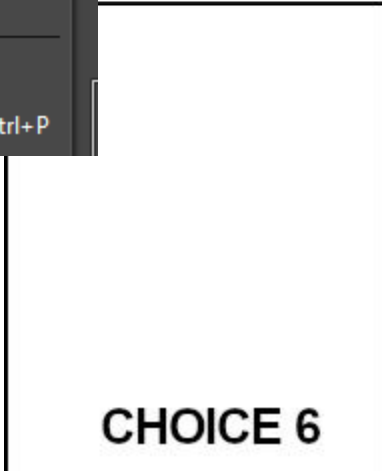
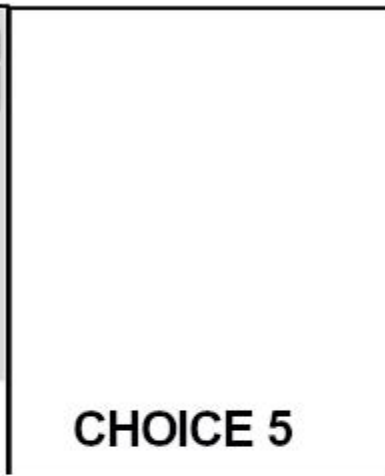
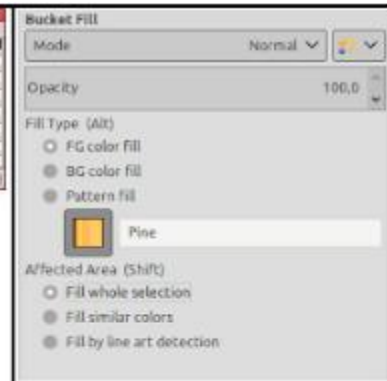
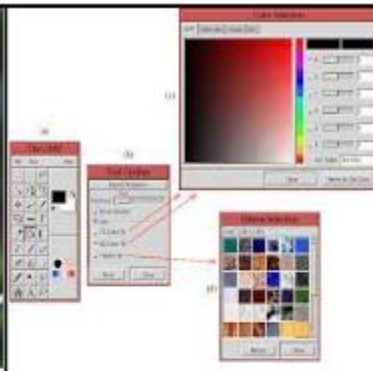
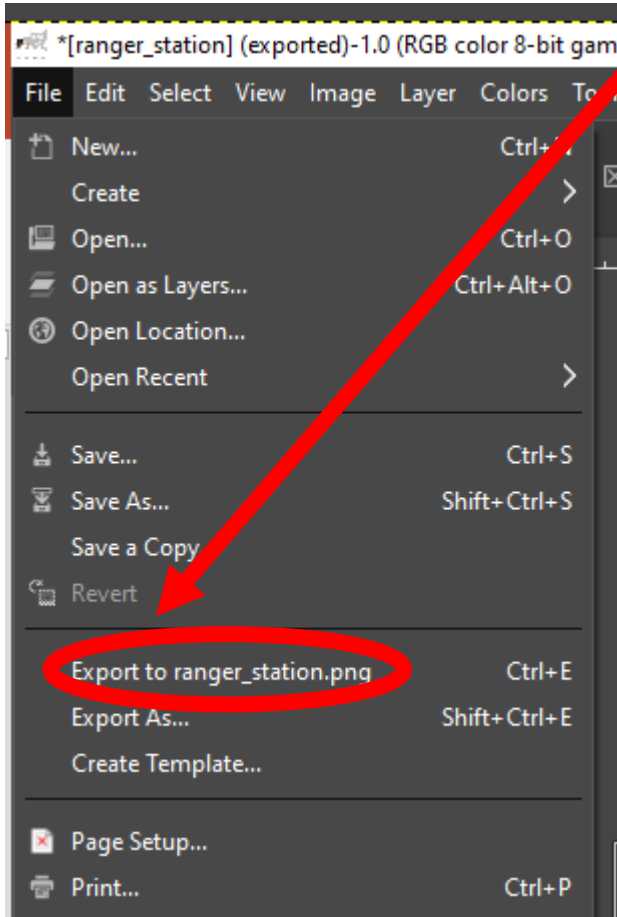
- 28) Scale the pasted layer using the scale tool so it fits the box
- 29) If you click this chain to break it, you can distort the image.



30) And of course you should add text.

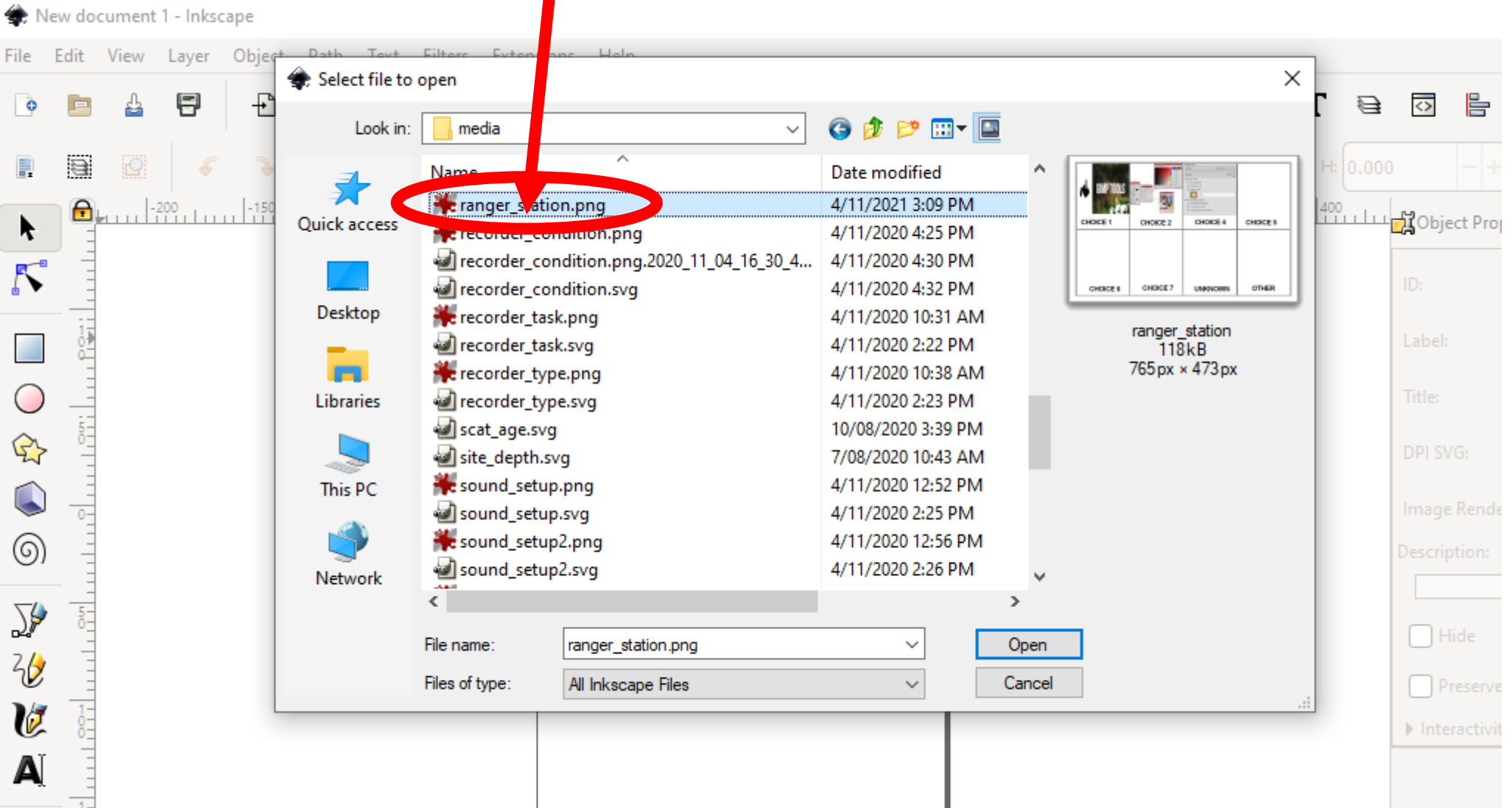


31) When you are happy with your image, save by exporting to the same name



32) Open Inkscape

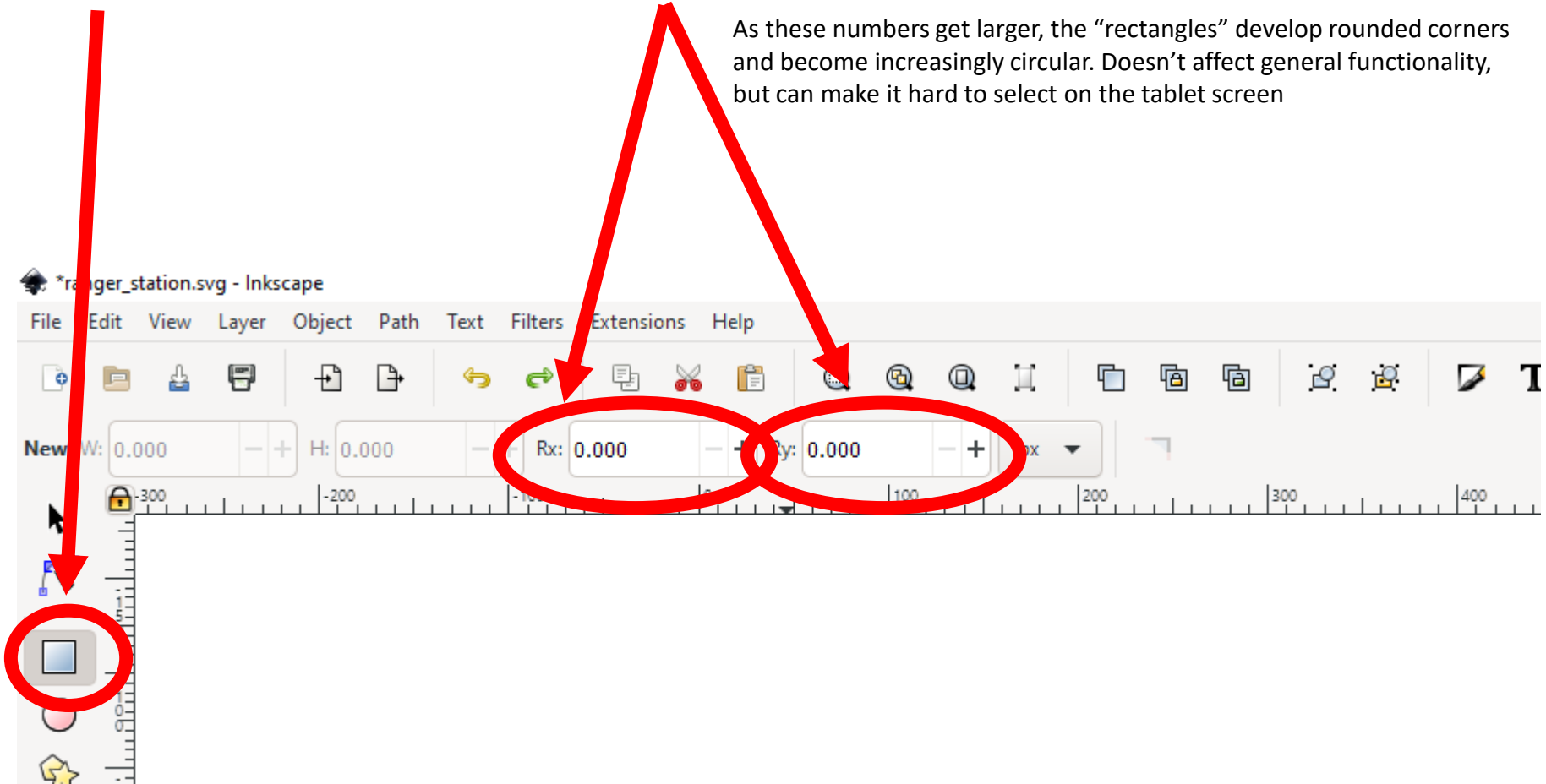
33) Open the file you just created



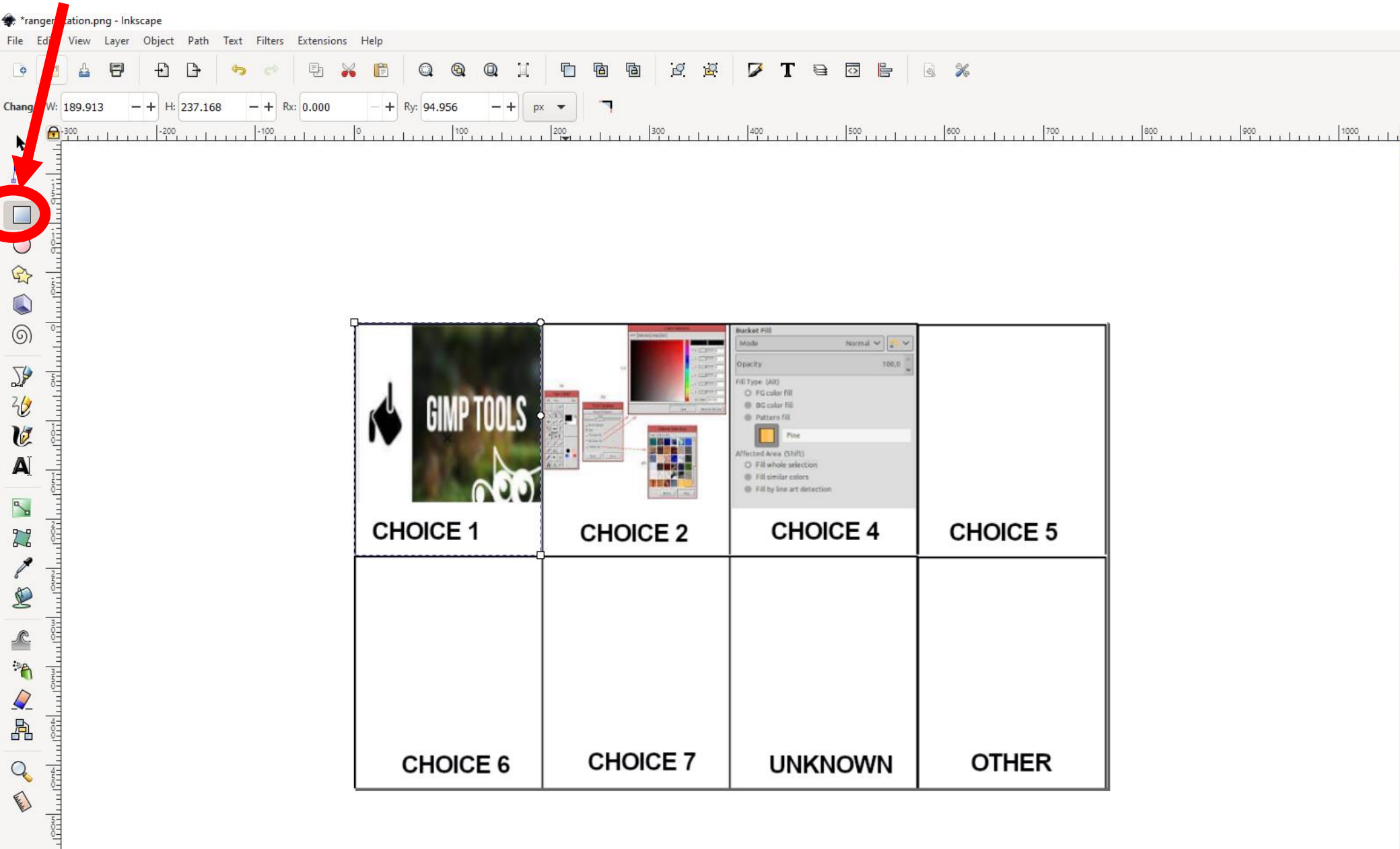
34) Select "Create rectangle".


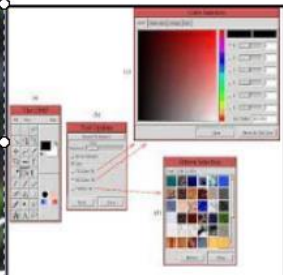
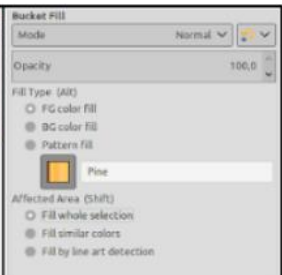
Make sure that these boxes are set to 0.

As these numbers get larger, the "rectangles" develop rounded corners and become increasingly circular. Doesn't affect general functionality, but can make it hard to select on the tablet screen



35) Draw a rectangle over the first choice box



 <b>CHOICE 1</b>	 <b>CHOICE 2</b>	 <b>CHOICE 4</b>	<b>CHOICE 5</b>
<b>CHOICE 6</b>	<b>CHOICE 7</b>	<b>UNKNOWN</b>	<b>OTHER</b>



36) Change the "ID" and "Title" to the name of the choice from the "name" column in the xlsx sheet. Spelling and case must match EXACTLY, so I suggest you copy and paste from the xlsx sheet

The image shows a design tool interface with a table and two 'Object Properties' panels. A red arrow points from the text above to the 'ID' field in the first 'Object Properties' panel. The second 'Object Properties' panel has 'ID' and 'Title' fields circled in red.

CHOICE 4	CHOICE 5
UNKNOWN	OTHER

Object Properties (Shift+Ctrl+O)

Fill: None Stroke: Unset O: 0

ID: rect33

Label: #rect33

Title:

Description:

Hide  Lock

Preserve Ratio

Interactivity

Object Properties (Shift+Ctrl+O)

ID: choice\_1

Label: #rect33

Title: choice\_1

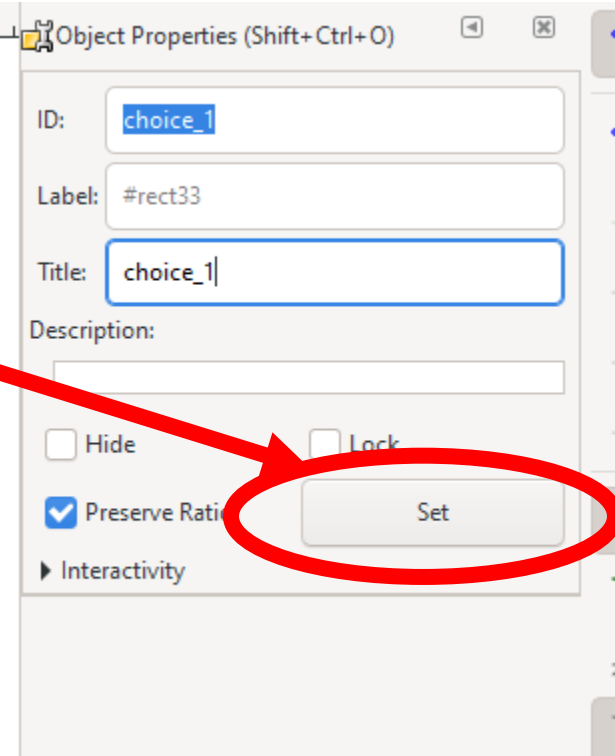
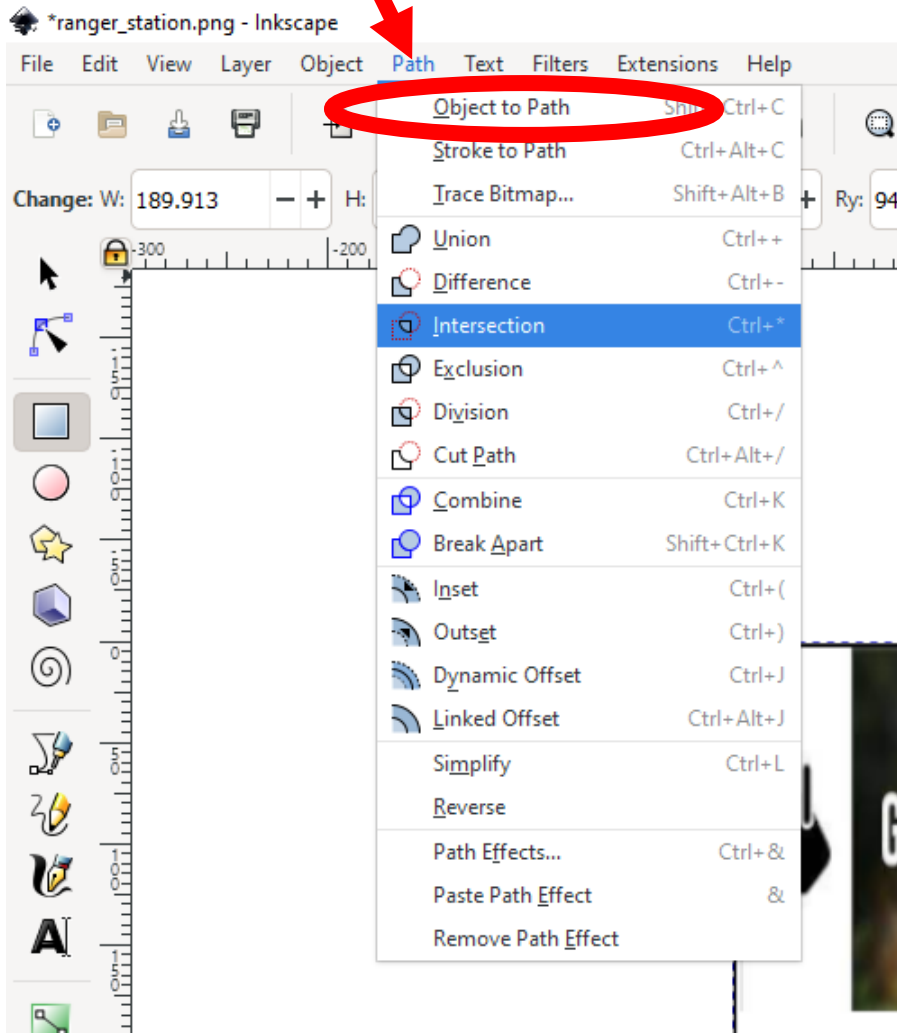
Description:

Hide  Lock

Preserve Ratio

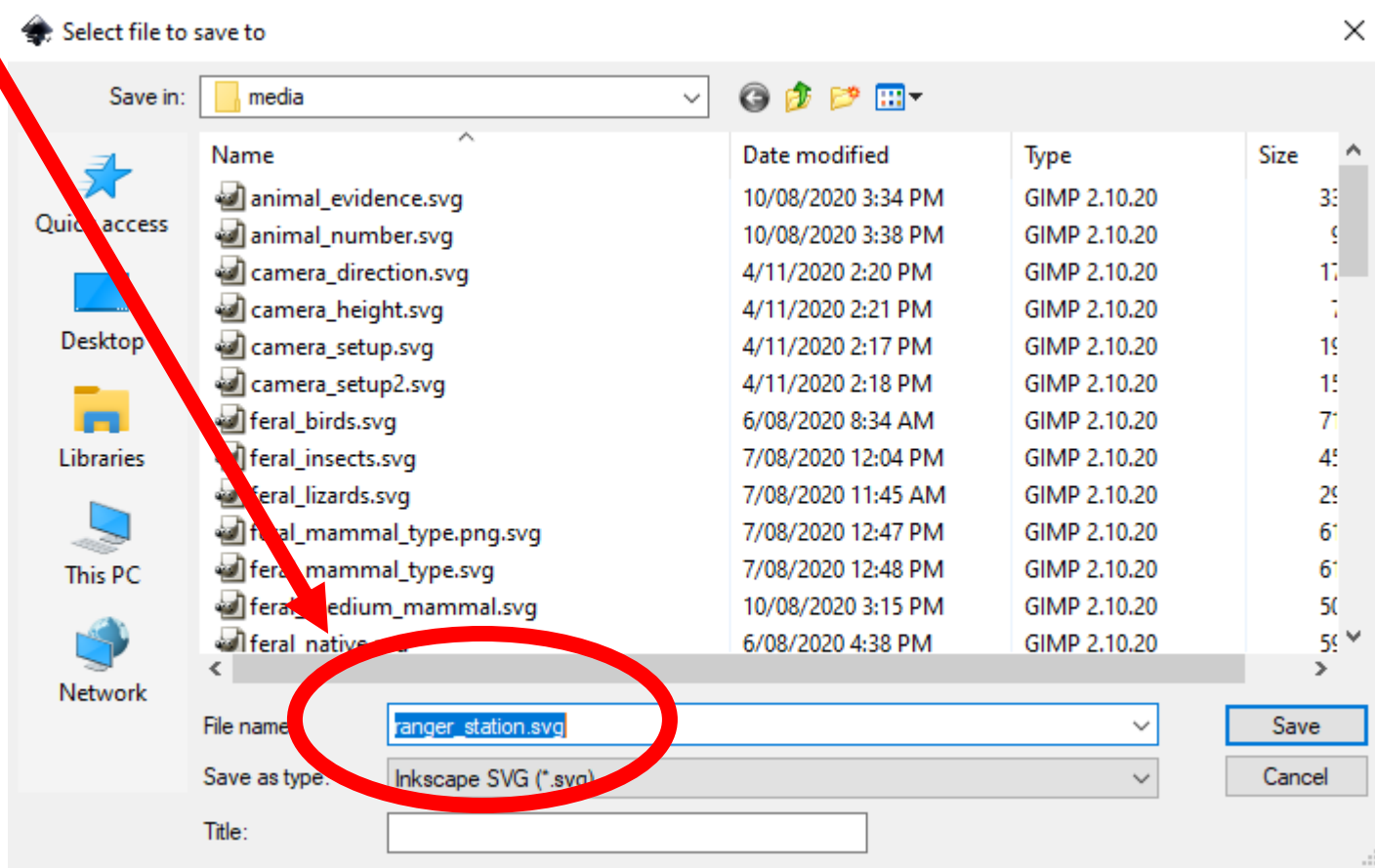
Interactivity

- 37) Click "set"
- 38) Then click "Path > Object to path"
- 39) Repeat steps 37-38 for all the choices.



39) Select file > Save as

40) Leave the name and file location the same, but make sure the type is set to "Inkscape svg"



41) Repeat steps 35-38 for all the choices.

42) You can now reference the .svg file in Survey123 following the directions on the [Survey123 help pages](#)