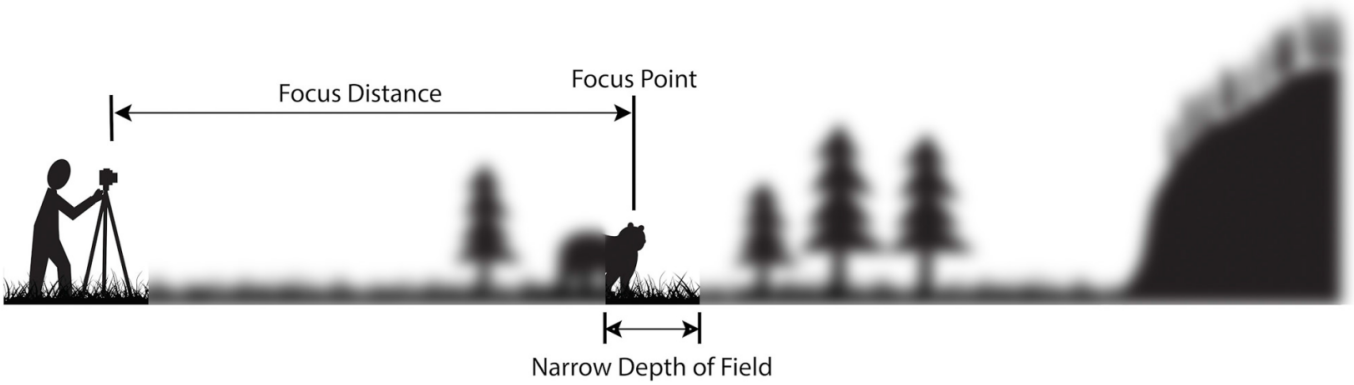
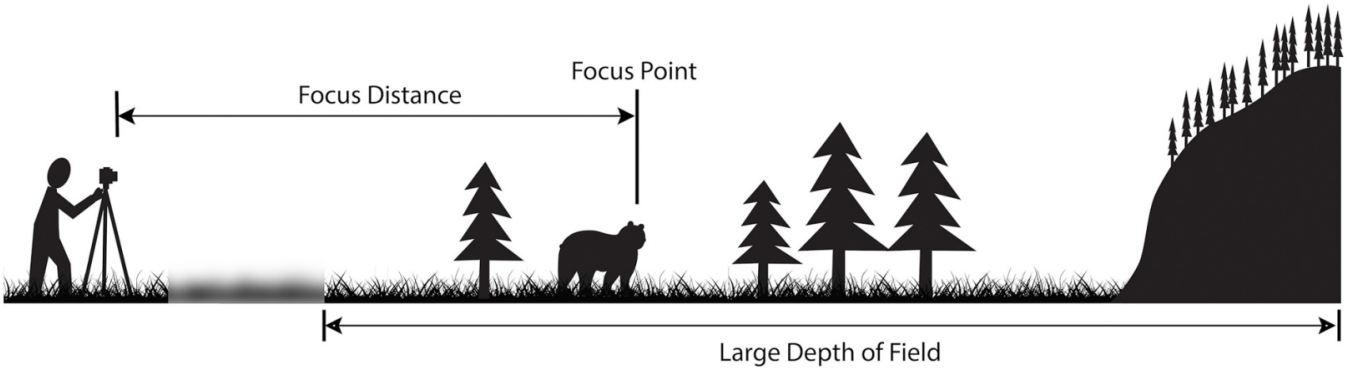
Chapter 8: Depth of Field

The **depth of field** is the distance between the nearest and furthest in-focus objects in an image. A narrow depth of field will have a very narrow area in which objects will be in focus. A wide (or large) depth of field will put most elements of the image in focus.





Depth of field is influenced by several **camera settings** including **aperture** (f-stop) and the **lens focal length**.

Lower f-stop settings (f/1.2 - f/2.8) have **shallow depths of field**.

Higher f-stop settings (f/11 - f/32) have **wider depths of field**.

> **Longer focal lengths** (like the **105mm** setting on the Canon EF 24-105mm lens) will havea **shallow depth of field**.

> **Shorter focal lengths** (like the **24mm** setting on the Canon EF 24-105mm lens) will have a **wider depth of field**.

Turning the **focus ring** on the lens will adjust the position of the in-focus area, or ***focal point***.

		
Shallow Depth of Field Aperture = f/1.4. DOF = 0.8 cm	**Medium Depth of Field** Aperture = f/4.0. DOF = 2.2 cm	**Wide Depth of Field** Aperture = f/22. DOF = 12.4 cm

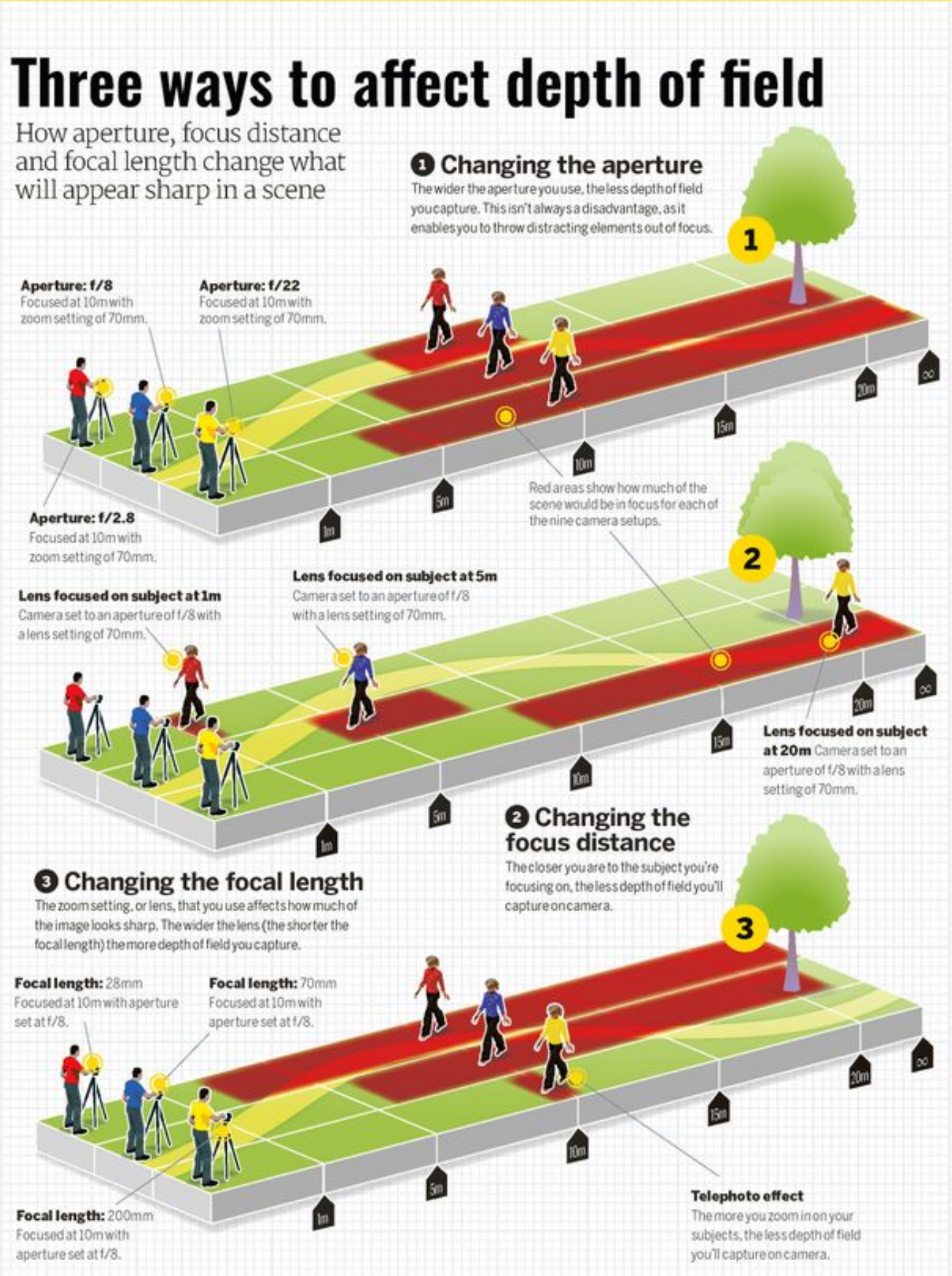
The camera's **distance to the subject** can also influence **depth of field**.

> The **depth of field** will be **wider** when the camera is focused on **more distant subjects**.

> The **depth of field** will be **shallower** when the camera is focused on **closer subjects**.

Three ways to affect depth of field

How aperture, focus distance and focal length change what will appear sharp in a scene



Revision #5
Created 2025-01-31 13:29:55 UTC by Nate
Updated 2026-03-23 20:02:26 UTC by Cadence Vera Cruz