

If you want to find the location of a file or the location of a group of files you can use the `find` command. This command has a specific structure where the first argument is the directory where you want to begin the search, and all directories contained within that directory will also be searched. The first argument is then followed by a flag that describes the method you want to use to search. In this case we'll only be searching for a file by its name, so we'll use the `-name` flag. The `-name` flag itself then takes an argument, the name of the file that you're looking for. Let's go back to the home directory and look for some files from there:

```
1 cd
2 pwd
3
4 ## /Users/sean
```

Let's start by looking for a file called `states.txt`:

```
1 find . -name "states.txt"
2
3 ## ./Documents/states.txt
```

Right where we expected it to be! Now let's try searching for all `.jpg` files:

```
1 find . -name "*.jpg"
2
3 ## ./Photos/2016-06-21-lab01.jpg
4 ## ./Photos/2016-06-21-lab02.jpg
5 ## ./Photos/2017/2017-01-02-hiking01.jpg
6 ## ./Photos/2017/2017-01-02-hiking02.jpg
7 ## ./Photos/2017/2017-02-10-hiking01.jpg
8 ## ./Photos/2017/2017-02-10-hiking02.jpg
```

Good file hunting out there!

Summary

- `grep` and `egrep` can be used along with regular expressions to search for patterns of text in a file.
- Metacharacters are used in regular expressions to describe patterns of characters.
- `find` can be used to search for the names of files in a directory.

[Mark as completed](#)

