PUTTING PENCIL TO PAPER: A WAY TO START DRAWING
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Drawing can support and assist in learning across all disciplines by providing a way to communicate ideas and concepts to other people.

The act of drawing allows us time to look, make connections, problem solve, invent and plan.

Drawing is a tool to deepen our knowledge and understanding. It gives us time to wonder and imagine.

This drawing resource is for people who are guiding others in their learning. It reflects an approach that recognises and values the process of drawing as much as the end product. You can dip into it at any point for ideas and inspiration for putting pencil to paper.
WE ARE
ROLE MODELS
WHEN WE GUIDE OTHERS IN CREATIVE EXPERIENCES, THIS REQUIRES US TO EMBRACE THE

CREATIVE MINDSET

- JOIN IN AND EXPLORE YOUR OWN CREATIVE ABILITIES
- MODEL THE JOY AND SURPRISE OF CREATIVITY
- BE OPEN TO BEING TAKEN IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION TO THE ONE YOU HAD PLANNED
- CREATIVE EXPRESSION INVOLVES PLAY
- LISTEN TO STUDENTS’ IDEAS AND HAVE FAITH IN FOLLOWING THEIR DIRECTION
- HAVE PRINTS, IMAGES AND ART BOOKS EASILY ACCESSIBLE
- REVISIT, REWORK, AND REFLECT ON THE THINGS YOU MAKE

CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES
ALLOW TIME FOR CREATIVE THINKING
HAVE CONFIDENCE!
EXPERIMENT WITH ART MATERIALS
DON’T BE AFRAID OF CREATIVE CHAOS
ENCOURAGE OPEN-ENDED EXPLORATION AND BACK THIS UP WITH THE LANGUAGE THAT SUPPORTS IT: “I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF...”
Good quality art materials are rewarding to use; they make pleasing marks, they create artworks that sustain reworking, and the artwork lasts longer. The following basics are all you need to get started:

**Clipboard:** For drawing when you are away from your desk or easel.

**Charcoal:** Make marks that stand alone or can blend and shade in a range of tones.

**Black water-soluble felt tip pen and a fine paintbrush:** Create ink lines that are bold and striking, yet can be reworked with a brush and water to produce a soft ink-wash effect.

**White or cream cartridge paper:** 110gsm or higher: the higher the gsm (grams per square metre) the heavier the paper. Photocopy paper is just 80gsm, newsprint 40gsm.

**Using quality cartridge paper enhances the experience of the drawing.**

**Soft eraser:** An eraser can be used as a drawing tool to make marks, not undo them.

**2B - 6B graphite or lead pencil:** The soft lead allows you to create a range of marks and tones.
MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR ART MATERIALS

--- THIS IS WHERE THE FUN BEGINS!

1. Feel your paper. Are both sides the same? What is it like when cut or ripped into a few different shapes and sizes?

2. Draw a series of small boxes or shapes with your pencil and fill them from light to dark. How many ‘tones’ can you make?
3. Draw a stick figure standing on one leg. Show the standing leg has weight by making the lines of this leg darker.

4. With the felt tipped pen, draw lots of lines: close together, sitting on top of each other, far apart. Dip a brush in water then choose lines to pat with the wet brush. Watch as an ink wash appears.

5. Using charcoal, draw an abstract pattern of lines and shapes. Smudge some areas with your fingers. Draw back over the smudges using darker marks that sit on top. Hold your eraser as a pencil and draw lighter marks into your work.

What about colour?

Colour is exciting - it can add meaning, feeling and richness to drawings. Learning to use colour is a skill in itself and can be a distraction when starting to draw. Try introducing limited colours gradually to explore and experiment with their impact as your skills and confidence build.
WARM-UP EXERCISES

HAVE FUN WITH THESE EXERCISES. THEY GIVE YOU LESS CONTROL OVER YOUR LINES AND FOCUS YOU INSTEAD ON LOOKING CAREFULLY AT YOUR SUBJECT AND CAN PRODUCE UNPREDICTABLE DRAWINGS. PREPARE SEVERAL PIECES OF PAPER TO WORK ON, AND THEN CHOOSE AN OBJECT TO BE THE SUBJECT OF YOUR DRAWING. USING A 6B PENCIL, DRAW THIS OBJECT USING EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES:

- DRAW WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE PAPER
- STAND UP AND DRAW AT ARM’S LENGTH
- DRAW WITH THE PENCIL IN THE OPPOSITE HAND TO THE ONE YOU NORMALLY USE
- DRAW THE OBJECT WITHOUT TAKING YOUR PENCIL OFF THE PAPER

WARM UP EXERCISES ARE JUST LIKE DOING STRETCHES. PRACTISE THEM ON A REGULAR BASIS AND YOU WILL NOTICE YOUR ABILITY AND CONFIDENCE WILL INCREASE!
PLAYING WITH LINES

Drawing lines can be the start of a new invention or done simply for the pleasure and beauty of making a mark.

Shut your eyes and allow your pencil to travel freely over the paper. Open your eyes to see the marks you created.

Fill in selected spaces using tones or lines to create an interesting artwork from these random marks.

Consider how you might show a journey with a single line. Draw a wavy line that flattens out and comes to a stop before taking off to the moon, and then floats back down to rest at the bottom of the paper.
DRAWING FROM IMAGINATION

MAKE UP A STORY

Drawing is a wonderful way to explore ideas. It can be done individually, with a friend, or together as a group.

If your story has a character, begin by drawing the character and think about all the details that would show a viewer who they are. Then wonder:

Do they need shelter?
Do they have friends?
What is the time of day?
What sort of environment do they live in?
Allow the visual story to grow on the page.

The format of your paper can help a visual story flow physically. Take a long strip of cartridge paper and fold it into a concertina book. This format creates a sense of time passing or a sequence of events.

Retell your story in words using your drawing as a guide. This practises visual literacy and art interpretation.
TIPS TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT DRAWING

DRAWINGS SUCCEED IN DIFFERENT WAYS. BE OPEN TO CHANGE.

OWN YOUR LINES, THEY ARE YOUR MARKS AND THEY CAN CONTINUE TO CHANGE. THEY CAN BE MADE DARKER, LIGHTER, TAKEN OFF ON ANOTHER ANGLE – YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME WHEN DRAWING.

RETURN TO YOUR FINISHED DRAWINGS. CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THEM, PLAY AND EXTEND YOUR IDEAS.

WORRIED ABOUT A LINE? LEAVE IT THERE AND WORK AROUND IT, SOMETHING REALLY INTERESTING COULD COME OUT OF IT.

KEEP A HISTORY OF YOUR MARK-MAKING BY COLLECTING YOUR DRAWINGS. PIN SOME UP ON THE WALL WHERE YOU CAN SEE THEM. REVIEW AND REFLECT ON YOUR WORK; YOU WILL KEEP NOTICING NEW THINGS.
Observational Drawing is drawing what we are looking at in order to capture what we see. Doing these drawings gives you time to notice detail, to ask questions, to make connections and develop an understanding of the subject.

To begin with, choose a subject that won’t move!

Once you have a subject, take a moment to look carefully. Alter your viewpoint, walk around, look at it from above then eye level and choose the best angle to represent the object or scene.

A good starting point when developing an observational drawing is to imagine patting shapes. If you are drawing an animal, for example, feel the shape of its head by patting it on the paper with your pencil.

Are you really drawing what you see, or drawing what you think you see? Keep looking up from your paper.

When you start to think you have finished, look once again with an eye to the details you may have missed.

Extending Observational Drawing

Completing an observational drawing is an achievement, but it can be just the beginning:

◆ Zoom in on a small part of your subject and draw the enlarged detail. By shifting scale within your drawing you also alter meaning.

◆ Take your image into another art media such as printmaking, sculpture or collage.

◆ Use your observational drawing to create a story, take it on a real or imaginary journey. The change may be as simple as adding in the weather or as painful as transporting your subject into another world.

◆ Respond to your drawings with creative writing, digital technologies, music composition, etc.
DRAWING ON EXCURSIONS

DRAWING CAN BE USED ANYWHERE, ANYTIME TO ENHANCE EXPERIENCES AND LEARNINGS OF ALL KINDS. IT IS A SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE WAY OF ENGAGING WITH AN EXPERIENCE.

It helps if students have some familiarity with their art materials and if anticipation is built around the outing beforehand:

◆ Discuss expectations. Use drawing before an excursion to imagine and record what you think you might see.
◆ Introduce the excursion by providing a sense of place, history and community.
◆ Check if there are any restrictions on materials allowed where you are going.

ON THE EXCURSION:

◆ Take time to stroll around and gain a sense of place before drawing.
◆ Allow students to identify points of interest that connect with them.
◆ Encourage students to try a few positions and find the best angle from which to draw before they start.
◆ Get comfortable.
◆ Allow students time and space to work on their images.
◆ Encourage students to look deeper and record more detail.
◆ Help students to notice more by sharing observations.
◆ Celebrate different perspectives, responses and interpretation.
◆ Keep all drawings.

AFTER THE EXCURSION:

Reflect on the experience by looking at everyone’s drawings and discussing as a group:

◆ What do they say about the experience? What do they remind us about what we learned that day?
◆ Compare these drawings with the ones done before the excursion. How accurate were our expectations? What were the surprises?
◆ Work back into your drawings from that day or respond to them in another media or discipline.

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Discussions about drawing

Verbalising and exchanging visual ideas together is empowering and can lead us to recognise and discover other ways of responding and connecting.

Sometimes we just need to listen. This animation is based on a real conversation.
Open-ended questions are a powerful tool when helping someone else find another way to see, think and draw.

It's not uncommon to experience barriers when first starting to draw. One way to dissolve such barriers is through conversation. There are no right answers in these conversations. It's about sharing perspectives, finding other ways in, coming up with a new approach.

I can't think of anything to draw!

Draw a horizontal line and start telling a story...

Draw a circle and turn it into something scary, fluffy or spiky!

Draw a line that's going down a slide...

I've made a mistake. I need to start again.

Can you discover another way to use that line? Can you use this drawing to plan your next one?
KEEP DRAWING

HOPEFULLY THIS RESOURCE HAS PROMPTED YOU TO PUT PENCIL TO PAPER, TO START EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF DRAWING FOR YOURSELF. THE IDEAS AND EXERCISES IN THIS RESOURCE ARE JUST A BEGINNING. DRAWING IS SO MUCH MORE THAN AN ART TECHNIQUE, IT IS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR ENGAGING IN AND RESPONDING TO ANY ASPECT OF YOUR WORLD.