

VISUAL ARTS

2ND/3RD GRADE ACTIVITY

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Introduction: One of the best ways to improve our drawing skills is to carefully observe and draw a real-life object. Looking closely at details helps us make our drawings more realistic. This is called observational drawing. Find an object laying around your house or yard and create an **observational drawing**. From shoes and lunchboxes, to flowers and rocks, any household or outdoor object can become the subject of an amazing work of art.

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Materials: Paper, pencil, at least one still life object

Optional: Crayon, colored pencils or markers

STILL LIFE EXAMPLES:



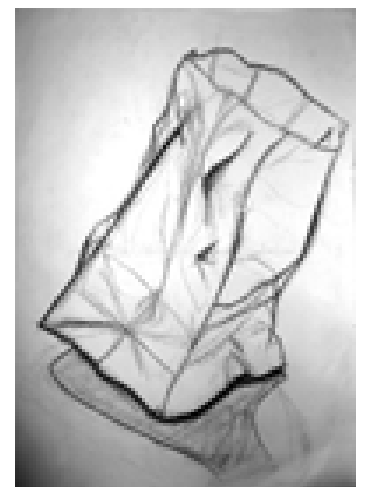
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VOCABULARY

Observational Drawing: Drawing what you see in front of you in a realistic way.

Still Life Object: A real object that an artist chooses to look at and draw.

Contour Line: A line that defines an edge or form. Lines that show the shape, bend, curves and edges of an object.

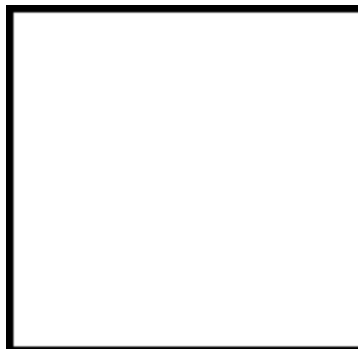
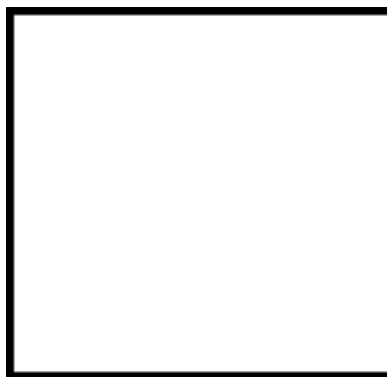


PRACTICE OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING

For observational drawing, artists pay close attention to the shapes and details of the objects they are drawing. Details and contour lines can help artists capture the unique shape of an object and make it look more realistic.



Look at the objects in each box. Try to draw the basic shape in each of the empty boxes and add at least five contour lines that help show the edges or curves of the object. Draw big enough to fill the entire space of the box.



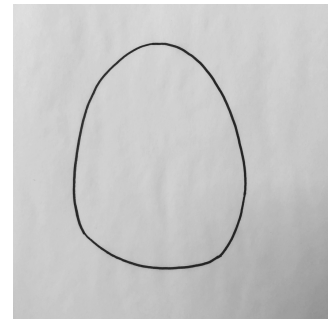
STEP 1:

Find an object that is interesting to you.
Place the object in front of you and try to spend one minute just looking at the object.
What shapes do you see? What textures?
Is it smooth or rough? What details do you see?



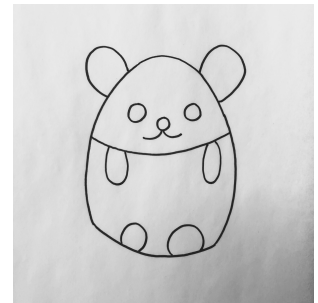
STEP 2:

Start to draw your object. Begin with the basic shapes you see, just like in the practice. Draw very big so that the object fills your whole paper. Draw lightly until you have the right shape.



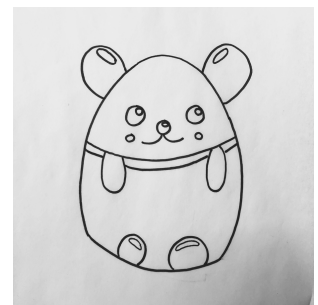
STEP 3:

Look closely at your object for edges, wrinkles, folds and marks. Does it have straight edges or curves? Are their parts of it that overlap, open, or bend? Carefully add contour lines inside your shapes to show these details.



STEP 4:

Look closely at your object for surface details, like textures, words or designs. Carefully add these details.



STEP 5:

You can add color using whatever materials you have. Try following your contour lines when you add color.



DRAW YOUR STILL LIFE OBJECT HERE.

