

# VISUAL ARTS

## 4TH/5TH GRADES ACTIVITY

**Introduction:** One of the best ways to improve our drawing skills is to carefully observe and draw a real-life object. Looking closely at the shape, details and value (lightness and darkness) of an object helps us make our drawings more realistic. This is called **observational drawing**. Find an object from 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.

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

**Optional:** Crayon, colored pencils or markers

### STILL LIFE EXAMPLES:



## 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.

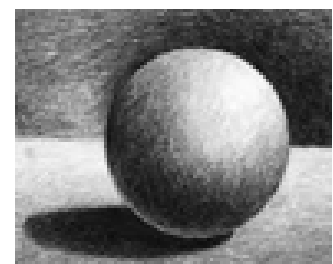
**Value:** The lightness and/or darkness of a color or picture. Adding shadows and highlights to a picture gives it more value.

**Form:** An enclosed area that has three dimensions: length, width and depth. Value and contour lines help us create three dimensional forms.

**Contour Drawing:**

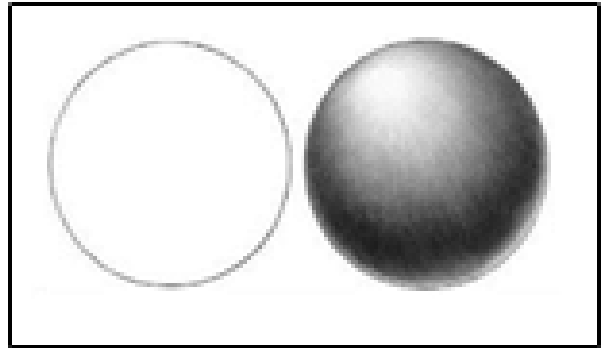


**Using Value Creates Form:**

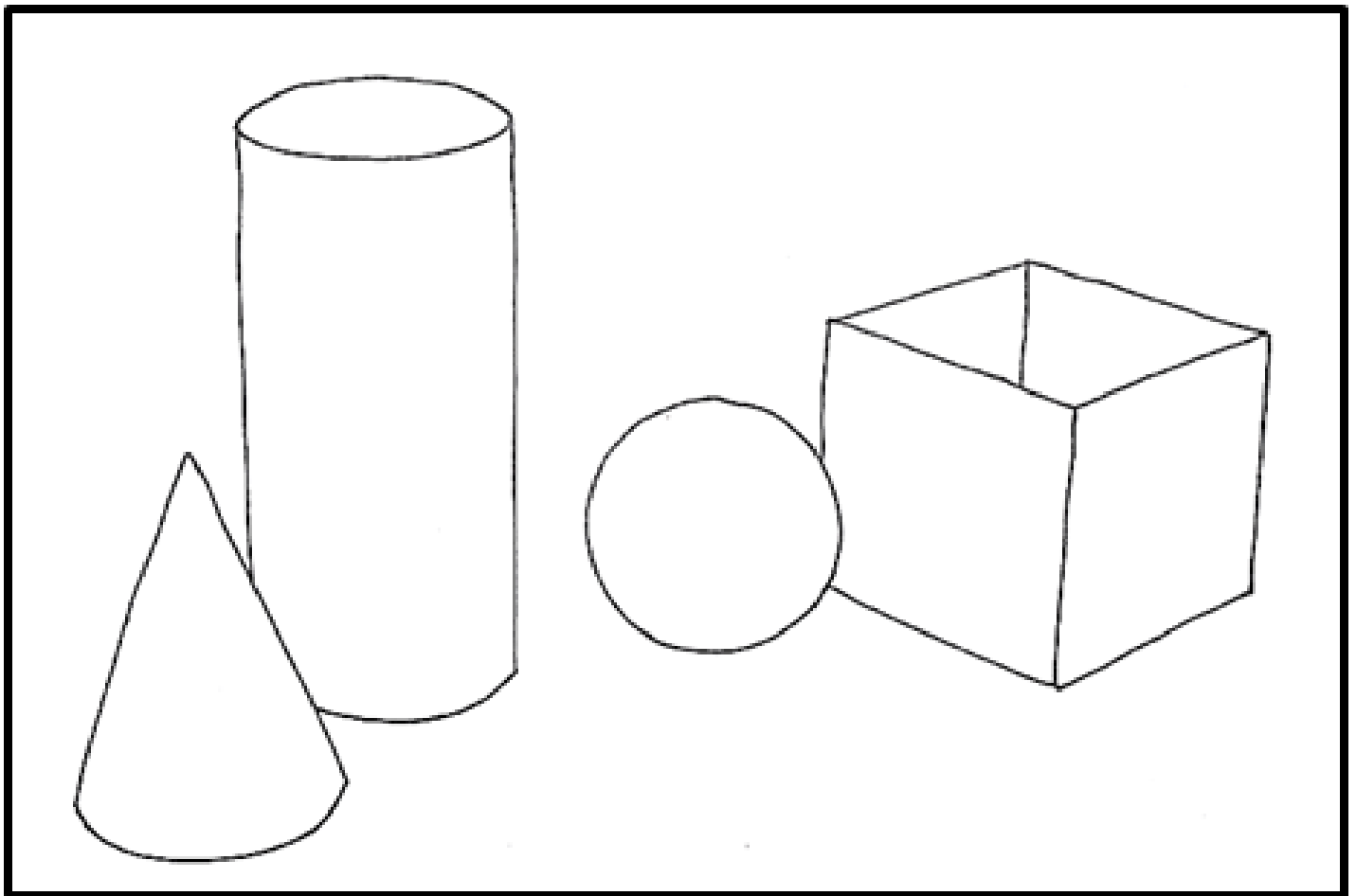


## PRACTICE OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING

Observational drawing means looking closely at details and forms to make them look realistic. Adding contour lines, value and shading can help us make the shapes on our flat paper look more like realistic, 3D forms.



Practice adding shading and value to the shapes below to make them look like 3D forms.



## STEP 1:

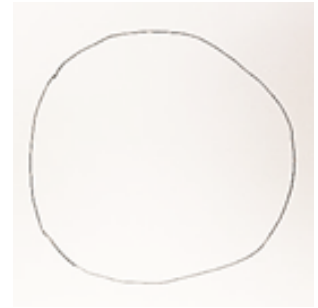
Find an object that is interesting to you. It could be anything from a leaf you found outside, to a favorite toy or stuffed animal. Place the object in front of you and try to spend one minute just looking at the object.

What shapes do you see? What textures? Is it smooth or rough? Are there words or details on it?



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



## STEP 4:

Now notice where the highlights and shadows are. What direction is the light coming from? Where does the light touch the object? Are there any shadows on the object? Are there any shadows under the object? Next to the object? Use the strategies from the practice to start shading your object. You can use your eraser to create bright highlights.



## 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.**

