

# VISUAL ARTS

## K/1ST ART GRADE 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 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.

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

**Optional:** Crayons, 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.

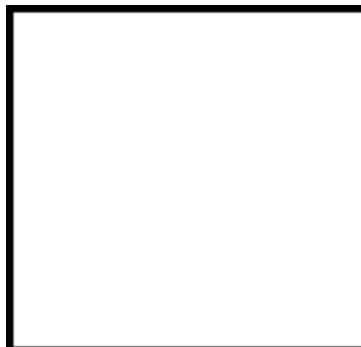
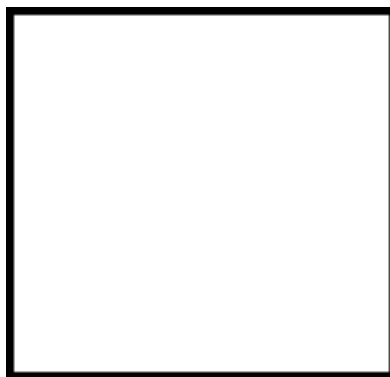
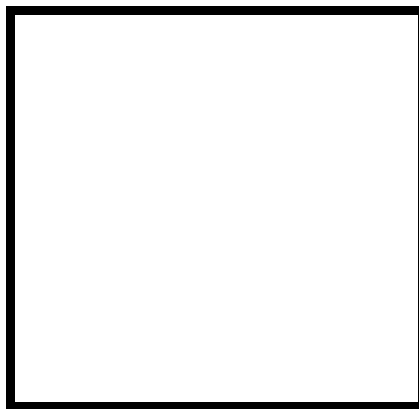
**Shape:** A flat, enclosed area in a picture, like circles, squares, triangles, etc.

# PRACTICE OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING

For observational drawing, artists pay close attention to the shape of the objects they are drawing.



Look at the objects in each box. Try to draw the basic shape in each of the empty boxes. Try to draw big and fill the entire space of the box.



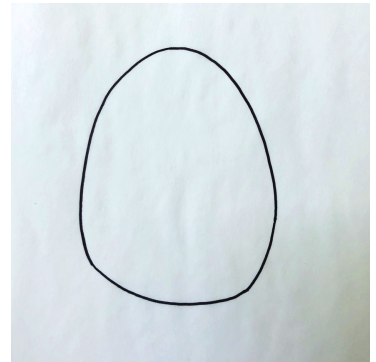
## STEP 1:

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 to find all the lines and details. Look for textures, wrinkles, folds, words, and marks. Start drawing these details carefully as you can.



## STEP 4:

You can add color using whatever materials you have. Try mixing two colors together to find the right shade for your object.



**DRAW YOUR STILL LIFE OBJECT HERE.**

