

# Trial and Error Drawing

This is the third of six resources in the series: '[Drawing for Science, Invention & Discovery Even If You Can't Draw](#)' by Paul Carney, educational consultant and author. The projects enable teachers of both art and science to approach drawing from a new perspective. You can see all of the resources [here](#).

[By Paul Carney](#)

**Introduction:** Mistakes aren't an unwanted outcome of the creative process, they are integral; a vital part of making. In this session we learn how to develop our working memory so that we might understand the creative process of action, mistakes and action better.



## Notes for Teachers

### • Learning Objectives

- To enhance and improve our working memory.

- To learn how to embrace mistake making as part of the creative process of drawing.

## ▪ **Age Range**

Suitable for 7-16 years.

## ▪ **Time Required**

The activity takes approximately one hour.

## ▪ **National Curriculum Targets: Art & Design**

**Key Stage 2 and 3:** Pupils should be taught to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas and to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing.

## ▪ **National Curriculum Targets: Science**

To develop an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.

**Key Stage 2:** They should begin to recognise that scientific ideas change and develop over time.

**Key Stage 3:** Pupils should understand that science is about working objectively, modifying explanations to take account of new evidence and ideas and subjecting results to peer review.

**KS3 Scientific attitudes:** Understand that scientific methods and theories develop as earlier explanations are modified to take account of new evidence and ideas.

**KS3 Experimental skills and investigations:** Make and record observations and measurements using a range of methods for different investigations; and evaluate the

reliability of methods and suggest possible improvements.

**Key Stage 4: Experimental skills and strategies:** Making and recording observations and measurements using a range of apparatus and methods. Evaluating methods and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.

**Working scientifically** might be embedded by substituting the subject matter of the exercise for something within the content of biology, chemistry and physics, such as cell structure, anatomical features or chemical bonds.

### • **Things You'll Need**

A4 paper, pencils, subject sources.

### • **Extending The Lesson**

Making the source image more complex should result in an increase in challenge.

### • **Supporting The Lesson**

Simplifying the source image will make the exercise easier.

### • **Assessment Guidance**

Look for accuracy of information recorded and remembered, rather than the skill of execution.

### • **Artist Links**

Henry Moore used this technique to draw, especially his air raid shelter drawings.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition>

</henry-moore/henry-moore-room-guide/henry-moore-room-guide-room-5>

You might also look at the scientific drawings of Santiago Ramon y Cajal and use these as the subject matter for the exercise.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago\\_Ram%C3%B3n\\_y\\_Cajal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago_Ram%C3%B3n_y_Cajal)

## • Cross-Curricular

How might we adapt this exercise in other subject areas to help us remember key visual information?

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## Methodical Drawing

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# **Serendipity Drawing**

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## **Simple Easter Sketchbook**

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### **Perseverance, Determination and Inventiveness: Building Nests**

Year 4 pupils from Comberton Village College and Cambourne Village College feeder schools met for a Gifted and Talented Sculpture Masterclass led by AccessArt at Bourn Primary Academy. The session centred around an exploration of the materials and construction methods we might use to build inventive, sculptural nests.

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### **Playing with tape, projectors, Wicky Sticks and so much more!**

Accessible approaches for collaborative drawing with visually impaired students with Sara Dudman and Debbie Locke at the

## **Astronaut Paper Body Casts by Gillian Adair McFarland**

A non messy, big impact project in a day on the theme of space exploration to fit with Tim Peake going to the International Space Station.

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## **Barbie & Ken Transformation**

This adaptable resource shares how we transformed Barbie dolls using paper, fabric, modroc and paint. We had great fun researching and designing costumes and exploring appropriate materials. By Paula Briggs

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## **Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animal Parade – Week Three**

This was the third and final session in a series of 'Animal Parade' workshops for children at Making Club at Milton Road Primary School where children painted their finished masks

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## **Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animal Parade – Week Two**

This was the second session in a series of three 'Animal Parade' workshops, where children at Making Club at Milton Road Primary School, made 3D animal masks.

After having chosen their animals and created unique designs based on their Carnival Mask Templates in week one, children now attempted to cut and staple their creations to make them three dimensional.

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## **Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animal Parade – Week One**

To use our Carnival Mask Template to create animal masks for an Animal Parade at the end of this half term.

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## **Long Legged Animals by Years 3 & 4 Making Club**

Year three and four pupils explore making their own sculptures and to take on sculptural challenges like how to construct with a variety of materials, including Modroc, and (most

importantly) how to make their creations stand.

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## **Shipwrecked! A Shadow Puppet Play by Children Aged 10**

As the winter nights draw in and it was dark outside and cosy inside, Friday Club students, turn the summerhouse into a theatre and make a shadow puppet play.

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## **Paperback Figures: Collaged, Relief Sculptures**

### **You May Also Like....**

**Visual Arts Planning Collections:  
Cardboard and paper**



## Book art with Primary children



## Making 2d & 3d Fashion Designs with Painted and Decorated Paper



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## **3D Drawing with Paper: Texture – Surface – Structure**

Artist Andrea Butler sets teenagers the challenge to create 3D forms from sheets of paper experimenting with structure and texture using manipulation techniques.

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## **Years 3 and 4 D&T and Making Club**

A collection of resources by Sheila Ceccarelli based on her Brilliant Makers Club for year three and four pupils at Milton Road Primary School, Cambridge. Children were encouraged to experiment, think and engineer creative solutions by working on simple projects, with individual and independently

generated outcomes.

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## **40 Minute Cardboard and Double-Sided Sticky Tape Engineering Challenge**

This workshop was all about getting year three and four Brilliant Makers at Milton Road Primary School to think about the biggest challenge for any maker: how to make something stand up.

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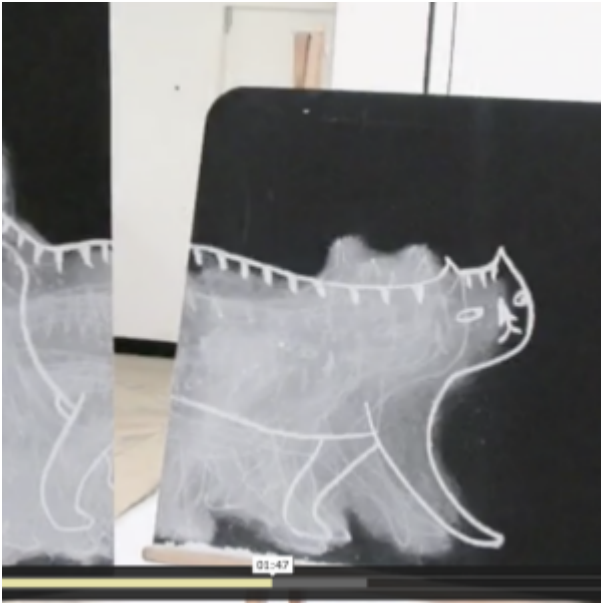
## **Paper Pigeon Project**

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## **Year 3 & 4 Making Club: Animating Articulated Beasts**

## **You May Also Like...**

Talking points: Making drawings move



**Talking Points: paper cut puppets**



**Talking Points: Lauren child**



**Talking Points: Lotte reiniger**



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**Painting the Light and the Dark...**