

Methodical Drawing

This is the first 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: This activity demonstrates why scientists need to record and catalogue large amounts of complex information. It also shows you how and why drawing can help us to better understand the objects we are studying and the importance of organising and sorting information.



Notes for Teachers

- **Learning Objectives**

- To understand that large amounts of complex

information must be organised.

- To learn how drawing can help us better understand things we are studying.

▪ **Age Range**

The activity is suitable for 7-16 years.

▪ **Time Required**

The activity takes approximately one hour

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

Key stage 2: Pupils should be taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design. Pupils should be taught to:

- create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.
- improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing.

Key stage 3: Pupils should be taught to:

- increase proficiency in their execution. They should develop a critical understanding of artists, architects and designers, expressing reasoned judgements that can inform their own work.
- Use a range of techniques to record their observations.

▪ **National Curriculum Targets: Science**

Lower Key Stage 2: Making systematic and careful observations.

Upper Key Stage 2: Recording data and results of

increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.

Key Stage 3:

- Make and record observations and measurements using a range of methods for different investigations; and evaluate the reliability of methods and suggest possible improvements.
- Present observations and data using appropriate methods, including tables and graphs.
- Recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables.

GCSE and A Level Science subject content: Develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods.

• Things You'll Need

Plain paper, fineliner pens or pencils, popcorn.

• Extending The Lesson

Increase the challenge by adding more popcorn to study.

• Supporting The Lesson

Limit the number of popcorn and suggest working on squared paper.

• Assessment Guidance

How can you tell if they have correctly identified the popcorn to the correct drawing? Maybe peer review would help this process.

▪ Artist Links

Look at the drawings of contemporary artist Becky Allen

<https://www.beckyallen.co.uk/>

▪ Cross-Curricular

Ask them to think about how complex data is recorded in other subject areas. Can they think of where this technique may be useful? (Such as Geography when studying rock formations).

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Drawing Source Material: Ice

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools

and community groups.

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We strongly recommend as part of good teaching practice that teachers watch all videos and visit all websites before sharing with a class. On occasion there may be elements of a video you would prefer not to show to your class and it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure content is appropriate. Many thanks.

Ice

Use the film below to enable children to explore drawing icy landscapes. Try to create a sense of momentum – for example you might pause the video 4 times and ask the pupils to make a 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute and 4 minute drawing at each pause.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to features of the landscapes.

You May Also Like...

Pathway: Life on ice



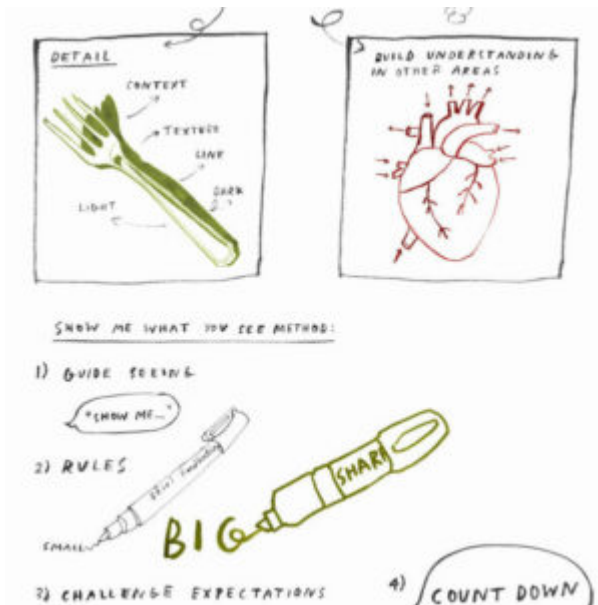
This is featured in the 'Life on Ice' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise

Handmade plasterboard



Making Painted and Sewn Landscapes



Ice Worlds



Drawing Source Materials:

Athletes in Action

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

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These resources are free to access and are not a part of AccessArt Membership.

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Athletes

Use this collection of films as source material for pupils exploring the human form during sports. In the first instance you might want to pause the videos at suitable points to enable the children to carefully look at the main forms and details. Try to create a sense of momentum – for example you might pause the video 4 times and ask the pupils to make a 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute and 4 minute drawing at each pause.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to features of the athletes.

When pupils are more experienced, you can also try getting them to make their drawings as the videos play – making quick gestural sketches.

You May Also Like...

AccessArt Olympics Resources



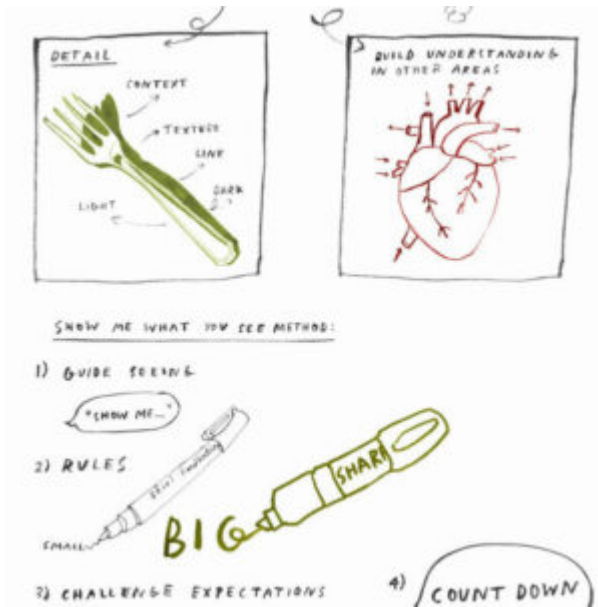
[Explore projects to celebrate the 2024 Olympics](#)

Visual Notes



[Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks](#)

Show me what you see



[Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise](#)

Water and Rock: Teenagers explore building drawings with graphite and modroc

Teenagers look at pieces of chalk and flint and explore the physicality of rocks and geological processes with graphite and plaster.

Drawing Source Material: Inspirational Stadiums

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

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Inspirational Stadium Designs

Use the film below to enable students to explore inspirational stadiums around the world. Try to create a sense of momentum – for example you might

pause the video 4 times and ask the pupils to make a 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute and 4 minute drawing at each pause.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to different qualities.

Try the same exercise using different materials, ie handwriting pen, ink and nib, using a ruler to make all the lines etc.

When pupils are more experienced, you can also try getting them to make their drawings as the videos play – making quick gestural sketches.

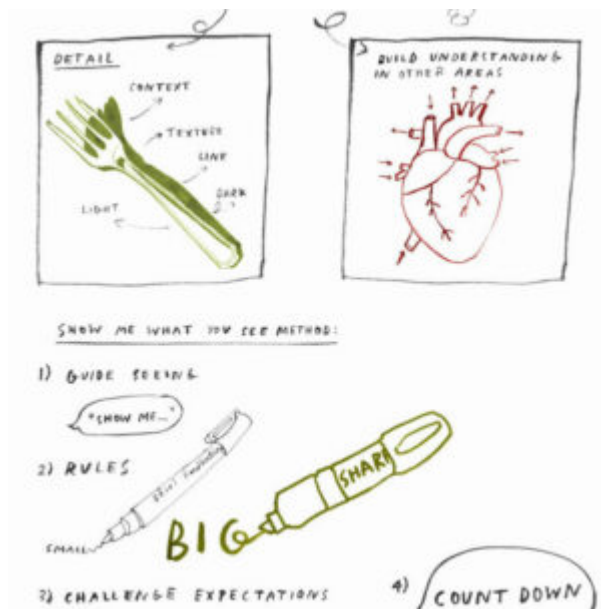
You May Also Like...

Explore Stadium Design



Explore architecture and stadium design with this pathway

Show me what you see



Enable close looking and drawing with this exercise

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Teachers Start the New Year with Sketchbooks

AccessArt introduces teachers from English Martyrs Catholic Primary School in Worthing, whistle stop introduction to drawing and sketchbooks as tools for recording and thinking.

Life Drawing: Using Tone by

Hester Berry

Drawing Source Material: Polar Bears

A collection of imagery and sources which you can use to prompt drawing in schools and community groups.

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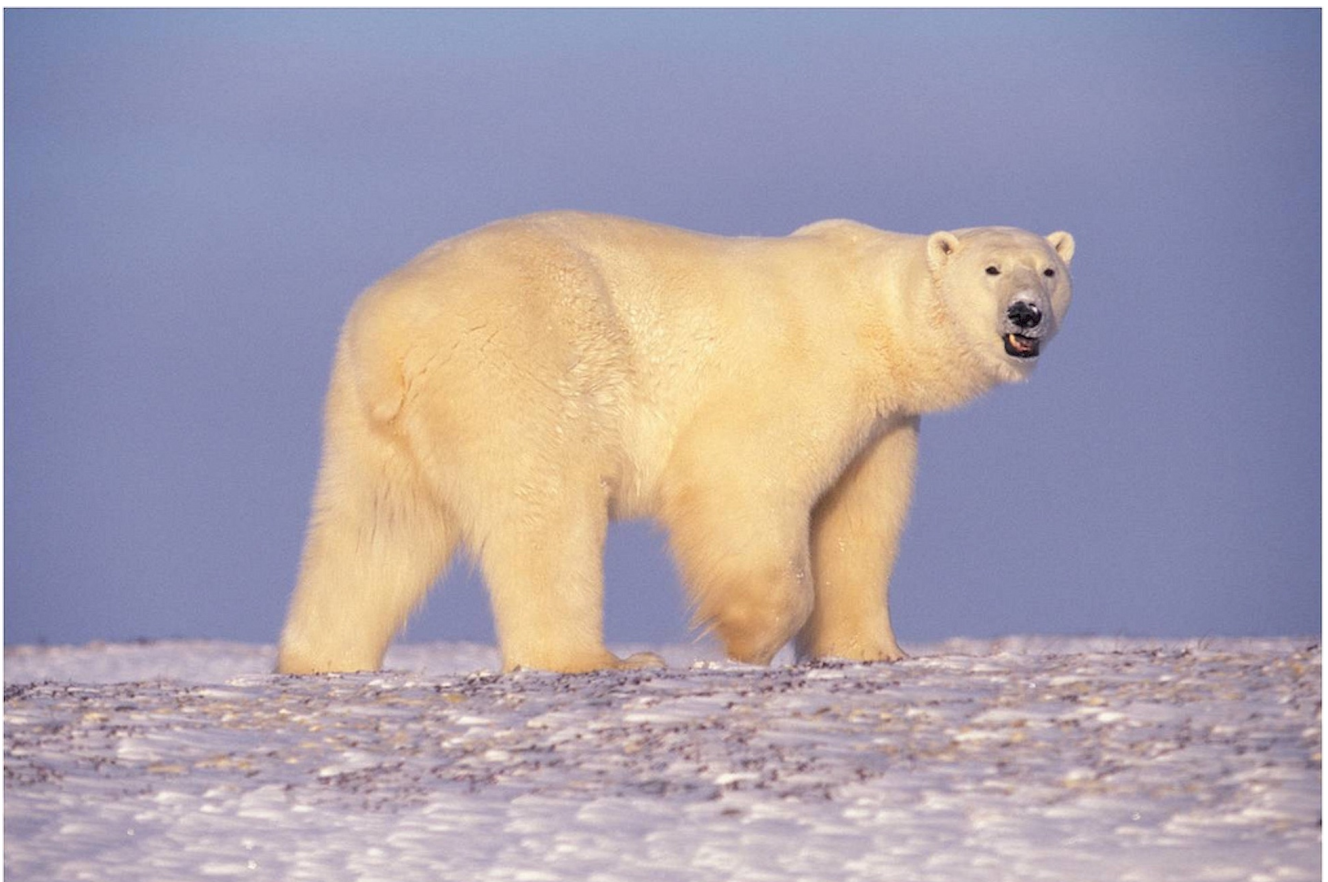
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Polar Bears

Use the film below to enable children to explore drawing polar bears. Try to create a sense of momentum – for example you might pause the video 4 times and ask the pupils to make a 1 minute, 2 minute, 3 minute and 4 minute drawing at each pause.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to features of the polar bears.

Watch the full documentary [The Polar Bear Family & Me](#)



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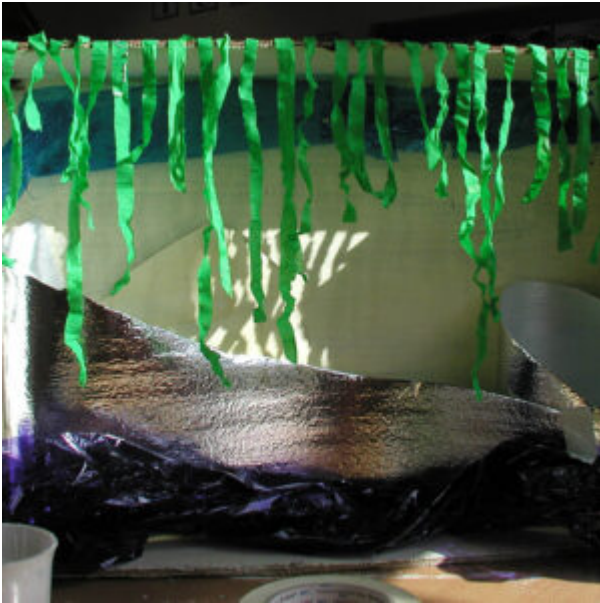
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Pathway: Using Art To Explore Global Issue

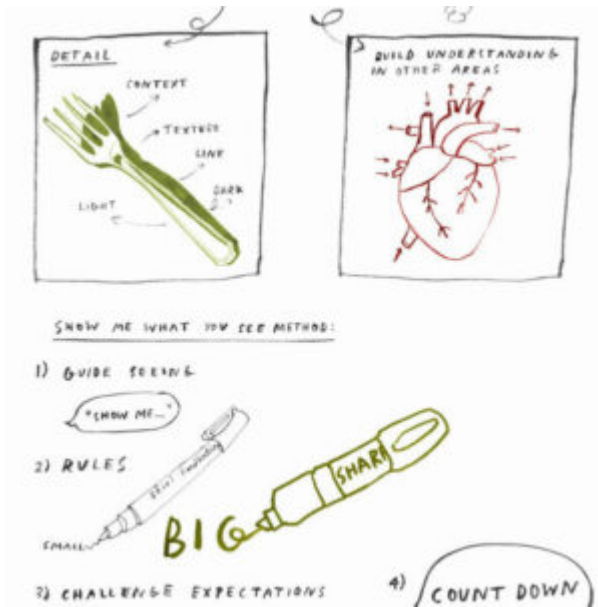


This is featured in the 'Using Art To Explore Global Issue' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see



Life Drawing: Understanding Foreshortening by Hester Berry

Life Drawing: Drawing Hands and Feet with Hester Berry

Life Drawing: Drawing the Head by Hester Berry

Red to Green: Wax Resist and Scraffito

Red to Green: Steps to Observational Drawing

Foundations for students to be able to approach observational drawing without feeling inhibited or paralyzed and reinstate their confidence in their ability and right to draw.

Red to Green: Monoprinting

Monoprinting is an excellent way to access mark making and drawing but with a bit of 'distance' from the finished work. Results are always unexpected and the process itself very engaging, so any potential anxiety about what a finished drawing 'should' look like is taken away.

Life Drawing: Capturing Gesture by Hester Berry

Red to Green: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions

process of recording by taken rubbings from natural and man made objects whilst incidentally making uninhibited gestures and marks with graphite

Red to Green: Patterns in Nature, Line and Wire

using drawing as a way into exploring designs and patterns in nature, followed by a making session using wire to extend ideas into 3D

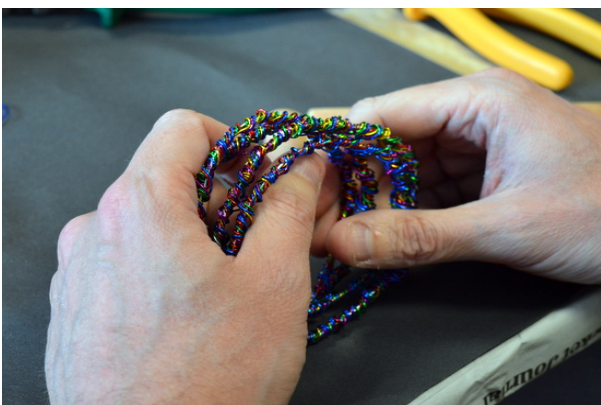
Aspire to Create: Inspired by Nature & Empowered by Creativity – Red to Green

One: Casting



Exploring mark making into wet clay, mould making, mixing and pouring plaster

Two: Patterns in Nature, Line and Wire



Using drawing to look at designs and patterns in nature to inspire the

creation of wire sculpture

Three: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions



Recording the surrounding world by taking rubbings

Four: Block Printing



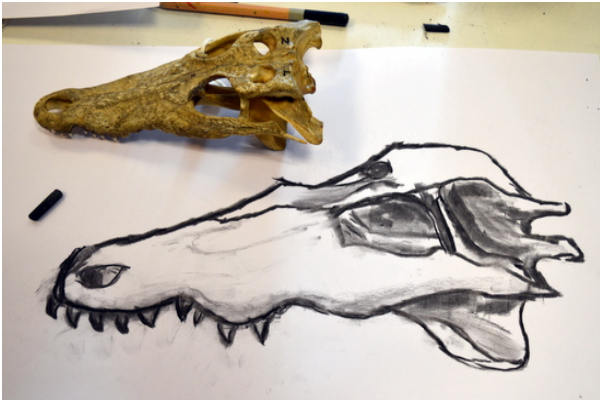
Learners are introduced to block printing

Five: Monoprinting



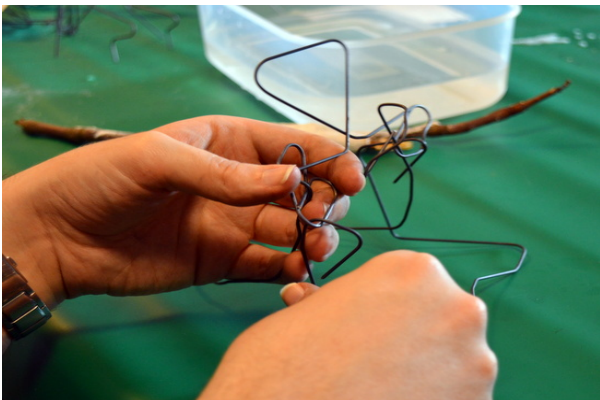
Exploring texture, pattern and mark making through monoprinting

Six: Steps to Observational Drawing



Four steps to enabling observational drawing

Seven: Making Sculpture



Learners explore sculptural principles of form, space and balance

Eight: Wax Resist and Scraffito



Introducing colour with wax resist and scraffito techniques



Life Drawing: A Collection of Resources by Hester Berry

How to Run a Life Drawing Class



Introducing Hester and providing an overview of how Hester sets up and facilitates a life class.

An Introduction to Life Drawing



Getting started with life drawing and some simple warm-up exercises to help you become familiar with your drawing materials and the life model.

Capturing gesture



Hester provides some helpful advice along with a series of short drawing exercises, that will enable you to identify the essentials of a pose and successfully record the movement and gesture of the life

model.

Drawing the head



 Drawing faces can be daunting, but Hester explains how you can tackle them successfully using simple and logical steps.

drawing hands and feet



 Hands and feet are tricky subjects and often get omitted because the forms seem too complicated to draw. Hester shares a secret shortcut to understanding and drawing these complex forms ...think mittens and socks!

Understanding Foreshortening



When drawing the life model, it can be difficult to process your view of a 3D form into a 2D representation. Hester explains clearly and concisely how to successfully achieve a foreshortened figure to create the illusion of space in your drawings.

Using Tone



Hester explains how to use tone effectively to give your drawings more definition and an increased sense of volume and suggests ways of using tone when drawing short poses, that will build your confidence and skills.

Paper Pigeon Project