

DrawAble: Making GIFs with Lizzie Knott

By [Lizzie Knott](#)

Lizzie is an illustrator and part of her practice involves making gifs to bring to life issues which she cares strongly about. As part of the [DrawAble](#) series of resources for learning at home or school, this resource inspires children and teenagers to make their own gifs – including a paper version for those who don't have access to digital.

[Download the PDF version of this resource here](#)

Notes for Teachers

What is the aim of this exercise?

This drawing project is one of a series of projects presented by DrawAble to provide children and young teenagers with new ways to create and tell their stories.

This resource encourages children and young teenagers to express themselves through making animated GIFs. Children and teenagers will be authors of their own short animations about all things that matter to them, therefore creating a sense of ownership of the creative process and outcome.

What age can this exercise be used with?

This exercise is best suited for slightly older children (ages 9-13).

How long does this exercise take?

This exercise will take from 30 minutes up to 2 hours, depending on the complexity of children's GIFs and the number of pages/layers they would like to include. If children create their GIFs digitally, it may take them a little while to familiarise themselves with GIMP.

How do I measure success?

Success is measured by the children's involvement in the process and their engagement and enjoyment. More able/engaged children may become more proficient in using digital drawing. They may want to create more complicated animations.

Try to encourage risk-taking and experimenting with their drawing, and let children choose the themes that they feel strongly about/can relate to.

What can we try after this exercise?

The resource links well to Computer Science/ICT and you may want to encourage children to try digital programs and apps such as [Pixlr Editor](#) or [Procreate](#).

Try other [DrawAble](#) exercises and projects.

Which artists might we look at?

You may also want to look at [Lizzie's Instagram](#) account.



[Let Me Inspire You by Lizzie Knott](#)

Before you try this activity you may wish to watch Lizzie's "Let Me Inspire You" video

Introduction

As an illustrator, I use GIFs to bring my 2D drawings to life. This involves drawing what I love and then choosing parts of it to animate. They're really fun and super simple. In particular, I enjoy drawing flowers, people, and highlighting important topics, such as mental health. Turning these drawings into GIFs can make these subjects really stand out. It gives us a simple animation which loops and my technique involves drawing different frames to create movement.

In this resource, I'm going to show you just how to do that. And you can make it as simple or as

complex as you like, depending on how many frames you'd like to add. For example, I illustrate for podcast called All Things Mental Health, and to make the Instagram come to life, I make GIFs out of the artwork just like this:



Choosing a theme

I challenge you to find something which inspires you. What's your favourite sport? Or are you passionate about global topics, such as recycling and pollution? Maybe you miss a friend and want to make them come to life through drawing, or you want to see your pet move around?

Now, visualize this. Think about these things that make you happy or what you're passionate about. Share as much as you can to visualize these

passions. Think to yourself, “what do I want to communicate?” Here’s an example of what I’m passionate about:



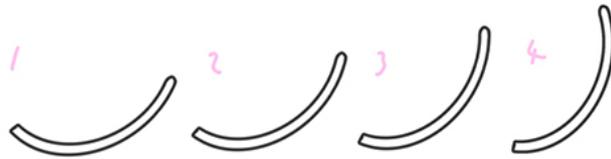
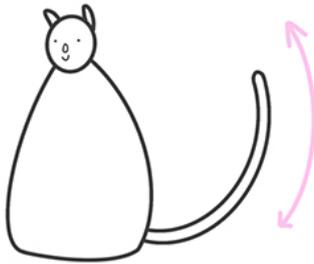
Turning your drawings into a GIF

I am now going to demonstrate how I create a GIF of a cat, with its tail moving.

HOW TO TURN THESE INTO A GIF,

Now choose one of these drawings and consider how to make it move.

I'm going to choose my cat, who has been keeping us all entertained during lockdown. I feel as though I can capture his personality through a movement of the tail.



Moving up and down like this!

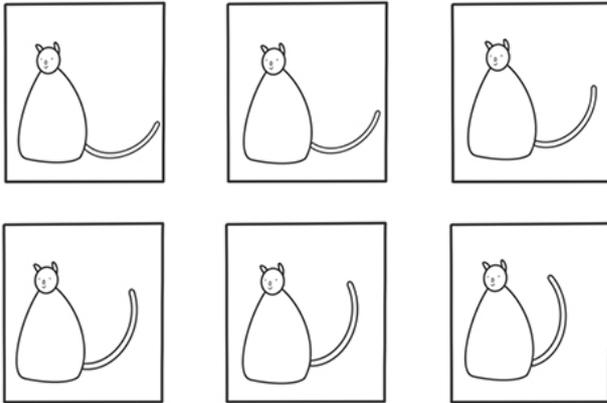
Making a GIF on paper

If you have a notepad or a pile of paper, you can make a paper GIF, as shown below:

ON PAPER



To create a GIF on paper, draw out each frame on separate sheets, just like this.



Then, when you place the sheets in chronological order on top of each other and flick through, you will see the image move!



Making a GIF digitally

To make a GIF digitally, you will need to download the software GIMP, which is free to download and use. Scan in, or take good quality pictures of each frame that you have drawn out. Make sure that all you can see in the photographs are your drawings and then a consistent plain background.

Start up GIMP, and open up your first layer or frame. You will notice that a dialogue panel opens up on the side of the page, which shows all of your layers. Think of these as the separate pages of your flick-through paper animation.

Then to open up each frame as a separate layer, click File and open as layers, and do this one by

one until all of the layers are uploaded. Make sure that the layers are in the order that you'd like them in.

When you're happy with the order, click File>Save as, and then GIF. GIMP will ask you if you want to save it as an animation. Click Yes. You can also change the frame rate to make the GIF move faster or slower.



Here is the finished GIF animation – hope you like it!

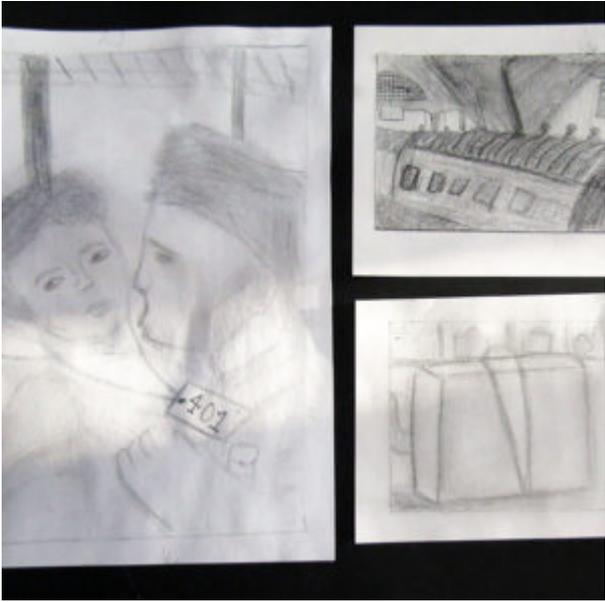
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AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

Drawable: The 3 Panel Drawing Challenge with Rozi Hathaway

See This Resource Used in Schools...



Drawable: Globe Paintings by Stephanie Cubbin

Mark Making & Sound: Part Three

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pathway

Mark Making & Sound: Part One



Mark Making & Sound: Part Two



Mark Making & Sound: Part Two

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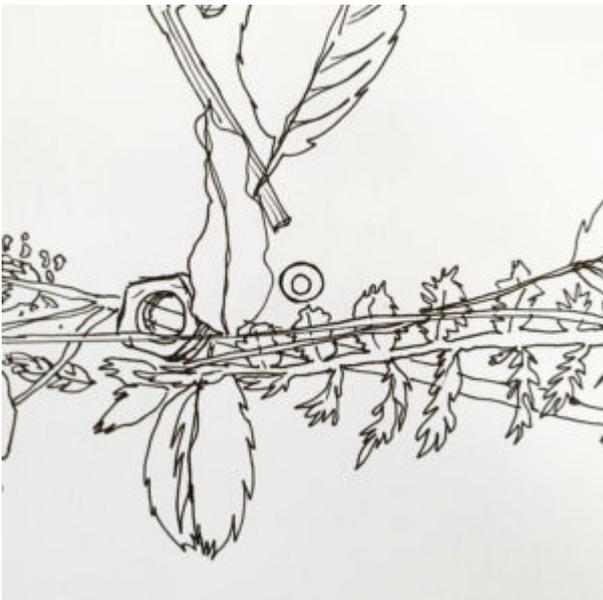


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Mark Making & Sound: Part One



Mark Making & Sound: Part Three



Mark-Making & Sound: Part One

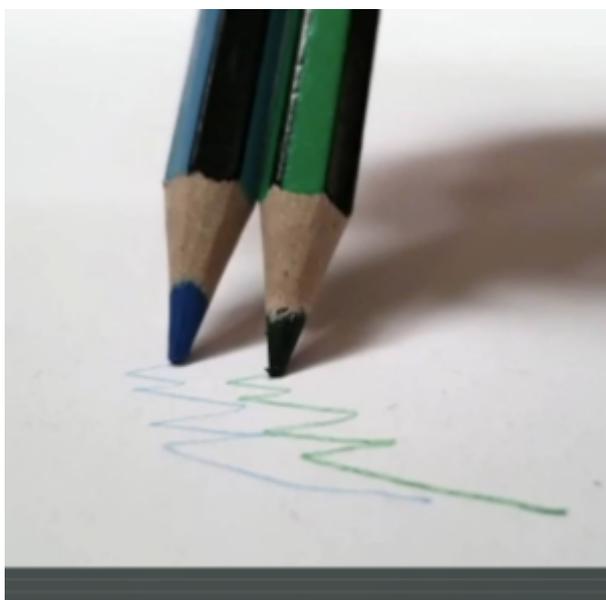
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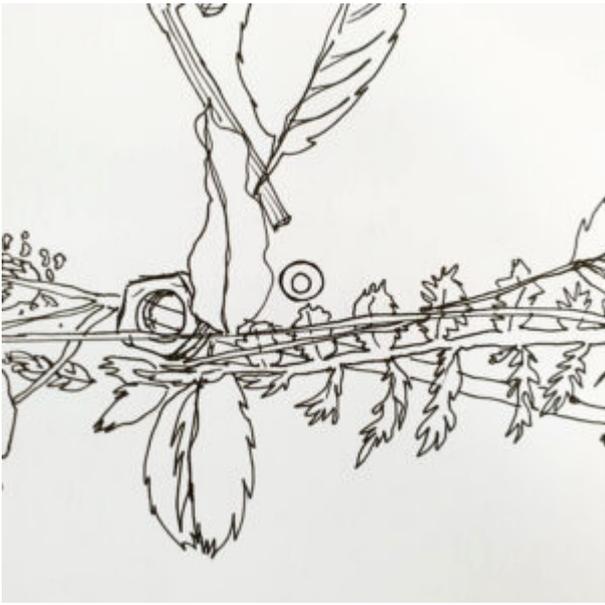


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Mark Making & Sound: Part Two



Mark Making & Sound: Part Three



Drawing to a Slow Rhythm



Inspired by Miro



Drawing to Music

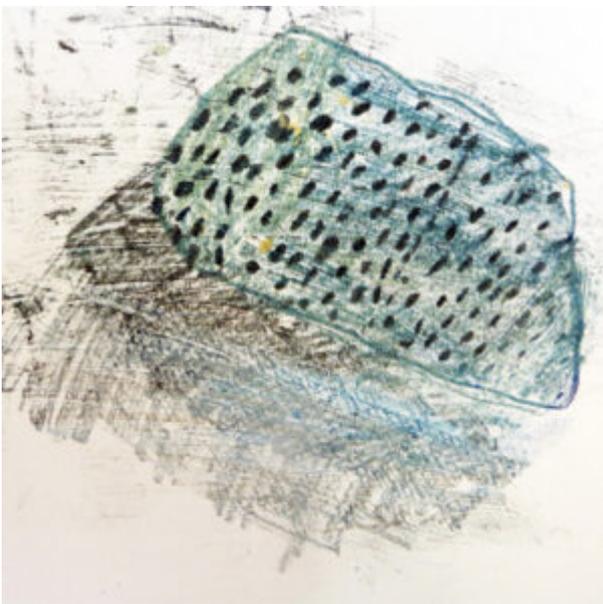


Making a Scroll Drawing

Drawing Small

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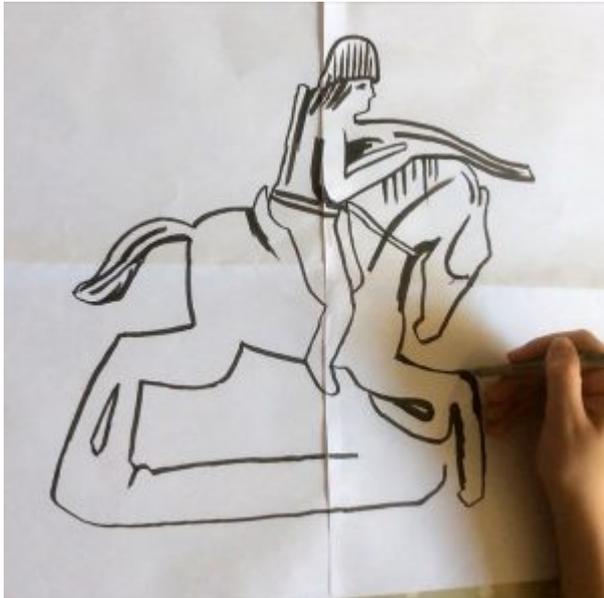
Pathway: Exploring the world
through mono print



[This is featured in the](#)

'Exploring The World Through Mono print' pathway

Drawing Large



Screen Printing T Shirts for the How To Be A Creative Producer Project

This post shares the process of screen printing t-shirts for the #BeACreativeProducer teenagers to

wear to help them identify as a “team” for the animation project.

Project 13

AccessArt Artist Rowan Briggs Smith shares her ideas and outcomes behind Project 13, and AccessArt Artist Mitch composes music to accompany the paintings.

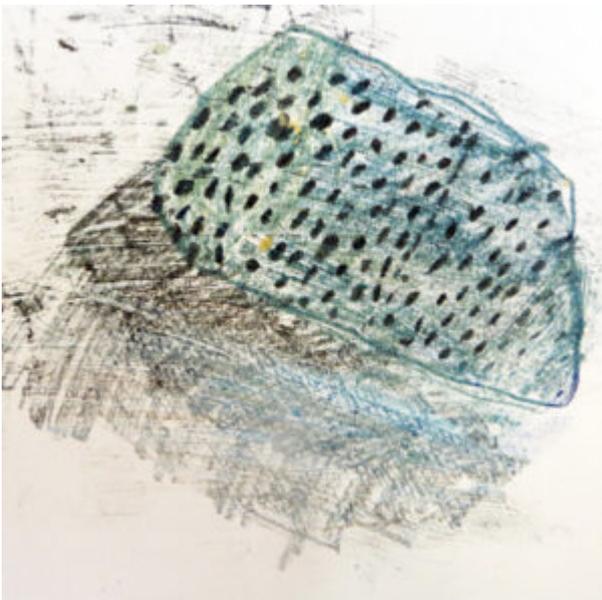
Continuous Line Drawing Exercise

Many thanks to AccessArt Young Artist Alex Tunstall for composing the music for the video in the Continuous Line Drawing Resource.

Backwards Forwards Drawing Exercise

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through mono print



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Drawing Large



Drawing small



What Are Drawing

Skills?

Drawing Spirals

See How This Resource
Is Used In Schools...









You May Also Like...

Pathway: Spirals



[Featured in the 'Spirals Pathway'](#)

Talking Points: Molly Hausland



The ancient art of kolan



Drawing Source Materials: Athletes in Action

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

Please note that this page contains links to external websites and has videos from external websites embedded. At the time of creating, AccessArt checked all links to ensure content is appropriate for teachers to access. However external websites and videos are updated and that is beyond our control.

Please [let us know](#) if you find a 404 link, or if you feel content is no longer appropriate.

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.

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FREE TO ACCESS

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



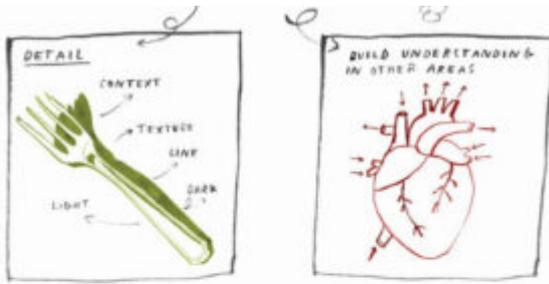
Explore projects to celebrate the 2024 Olympics

Visual Notes



Find out how pupils can respond to artists work in sketchbooks

Show me what you see



SHOW ME WHAT YOU SEE METHOD:

1) GUIDE SCENE

"SHOW ME..."

2) RULES



3) CHALLENGE EXPECTATIONS

4) COUNT DOWN

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

See Three Shapes

A simple exercise with Indian ink to help children see and convey simple forms in drawing.

Monoprinting with Oil Pastel and Carbon Copy Paper

Making mono prints using carbon paper and oil pastel. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Thoughtful Mark Making

A drawing game to help children diversify their mark making and make their own “drawing decisions”.

[Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

**Warm-up
Exercise:**

**Drawing
Making**

Stronger Drawings

Exercise to help children make stronger, more powerful drawings. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Elastic Band Sketchbook