

Welcome to the brand new AccessArt Drawing Challenge!

The AccessArt Drawing Challenge consists of a warm up exercise and a drawing project. Feel free to make the activities your own, and to adapt them as you see fit.

The Making Stronger Drawings warm up is designed to help children explore more confident mark making. New skills can then be developed further through the Making an Artists' Book project.

Both activities make use of scrap or recycled paper. You can also develop and adapt the Making an Artists' Book activity by giving it a focus around a particular theme – for example urban sketching, still life, fashion or product design, or as a daily journal...

The activities are designed for ages 5 to 11, but in reality they are just as suited to teenagers and adults – so do have a go yourself!

Please share any drawings made as a result of this Drawing Challenge by using the hashtag [#drawingprojectsforchildren](#)

Have fun!



MAKING STRONGER DRAWINGS

Soft pencils, such as a 4, 6 or 8 B, can be used to make marks from the very palest, softest marks to the heaviest, darkest black line. This exercise will show you how to use soft pencils to make all of these marks, and create very strong and bold pencil drawings.

Materials

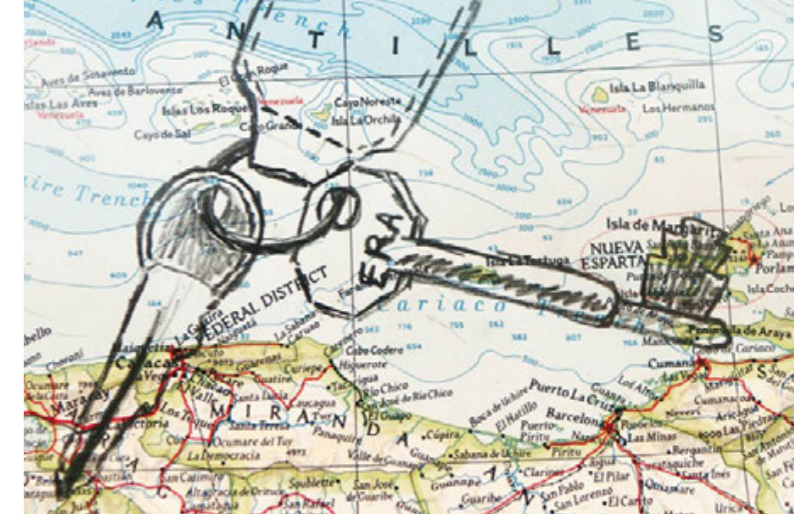
- Soft B pencils (2B to 9B would be ideal)
- A selection of old maps (You can find old maps in charity shops or jumble sales). Try to avoid road atlases that are on shiny paper, as these will not hold the pencil marks as well as a matt paper. If you cannot find enough old maps, try photocopying some maps instead.

Subject Matter

Choose small objects such as a bundle of keys, feathers, pebbles, or a selection of cutlery as the subject matter for this warm up.

Activity

- 1 Cut or tear the maps into A5 or A4 sized pieces.
- 2 Using a soft pencil, make a drawing of one of the objects directly onto a piece of map paper. Imagine that the marks you make are in competition with the lines of the map. Make sure your drawing wins! But remember that you must still make careful, considered marks and look at your object carefully. Experiment with pressure to discover how dark your lines need to be so they can be seen over the map. Are there areas of the map where you can use a relatively light mark?
- 3 Test the strength of your drawing by viewing it from a distance. How well does the drawing carry? Can you see the object over the map?

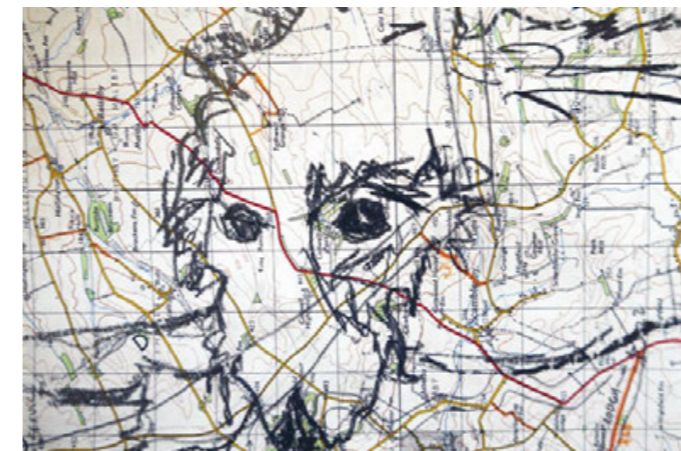


Facilitator's Note

Typically when children are given a pencil it is a HB, which creates a very uniform line with little tonal variety, and they are not often encouraged to experiment with pressure. When children are then given a soft pencil like a 4, 6 or 8 B, they carry their experience of using HB pencils with them, failing to realise the amazing tonal range that a softer pencil is capable of.

Added to this, many children have a natural tendency to make quite tentative drawings. This exercise was developed as a way to demonstrate to children the full potential of working with soft B pencils, and to encourage more cautious children to make strong, bold drawings.

This can be used as a warm up exercise before specific drawing tasks or it can be used as an intervention or challenge if a particular child would benefit from being encouraged to have more belief in their drawings.



MAKING AN ARTIST'S BOOK

This project builds on two warm up exercises: Making Larger Drawings (p 42) and Making Stronger Drawings (p 44). You will make a drawing on an A2 sheet and then turn it into an artist's book. You will also have to think about which types of marks to make on paper that already has some marks on, and how those marks may also inspire you.



Materials

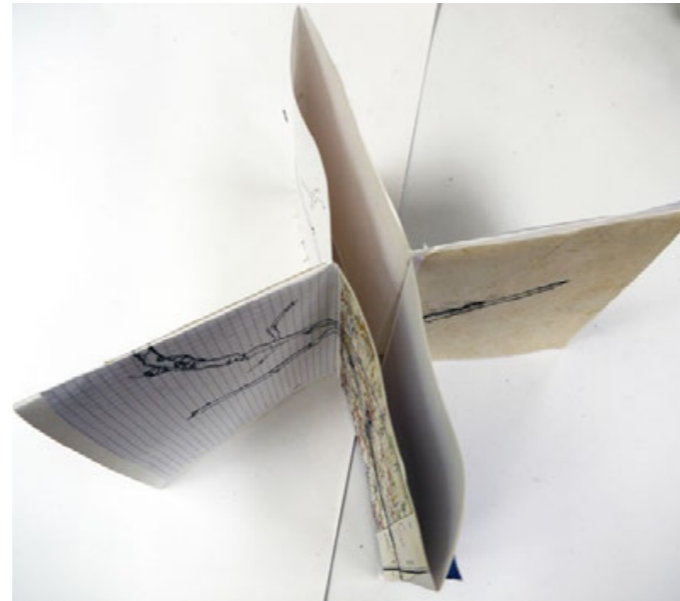
- ▶ Soft (B) pencils
- Graphite
- ▶ Erasers
- Glue
- ▶ Scissors
- Two sheets of A2 drawing paper
- ▶ Cardboard
- A selection of papers: graph, tracing, tissue, old maps, photocopies of fabric, pages from old books etc.

Subject Matter

Fold an A2 piece of paper four times. Unfold the paper so that you have a sheet with eight panels. Then arrange a collection of sticks and twigs on your unfolded sheet of paper, making sure that some of the sticks cross the individual panels.

Activity

- 1 Before starting your drawing, you will need to prepare a sheet to draw on. Fold a second sheet of A2 paper four times and then unravel it to reveal eight panels. Open it out and lay it flat. Then make a cardboard template the same shape and size as one of the panels. Next, tear up some old papers to the size of one of the individual panels using your cardboard template. You will need eight papers, preferably all different types. Finally, stick down your eight papers to the panels of the A2 sheet, creating a patchwork of papers on one sheet. This is your drawing sheet!
- 2 Now make a drawing of the sticks and twigs at exactly the same size as the real life sticks and twigs onto your drawing sheet. Try to use the creases in the subject matter paper to help you see where to draw your sticks and twigs.
- 3 You may need to change the type of marks you make for each panel. If you are drawing over a panel that has lots of writing on it, or a busy map, your marks might need to be stronger. If your line then moves onto a panel of delicate tracing paper, how will your mark making change?
- 4 Although you are working on eight different types of paper, try to remember you are making a drawing on one large sheet. Keep looking at the subject matter, then the drawing, then the subject matter, then the drawing again, etc.



- 5 Once you have finished your drawing, cut a single slit across the two middle folds. Turn the sheet into a 'book' by pushing up through the slit and letting the pages fall and fold downwards. The book can start wherever you like! Take a look at your book; your whole drawing has turned into a series of pages. How have the line and composition changed?
- 6 Go back into your book and add some extra drawings on certain pages that fit with the marks, spaces and lines already there. You might want to pick a new, small subject matter to draw in the spaces between your first drawings.
- 7 Why not unfold your book again after adding new drawings, to see how they have once again changed the whole sheet.



Want more inspirational drawing projects?

These activities were taken from *Drawing Projects for Children* by Paula Briggs, published by Black Dog Press 2020.

Find out more:

www.accessart.org.uk/drawing-projects-children-paula-briggs/

About AccessArt

AccessArt is a UK Registered Charity that aims to inspire and enable high quality visual arts teaching and learning. We have over 850 resources to inspire your practice at www.accessart.org.uk/find-a-resource/

