

Hands-On Project #2

OBSERVATION DRAWING



GRADE LEVEL: 4-6

STANDARDS: VA2, VA3

OBJECTIVES:

Students will experiment with observation techniques to create realistic drawings. They will apply their knowledge of observation drawing techniques to solve progressively more complex visual problems.

TIME: 2 class sessions

MATERIALS:

1. pencils
2. erasers
3. 4" x 6" heavy-weight white drawing paper, 2-3 sheets per student
4. pint of mushrooms
5. yellow ochre and burnt sienna powdered pigment
6. school glue
7. large paintbrushes
8. large plastic containers
9. black pens or markers

VOCABULARY:

broken line, dashed line, envelope, line weight, pigment, shape

MODIFY FOR K-3:

Ask students to describe whether the mushroom they are looking at is taller or wider. Ask students for more-specific information, such as "How much taller or wider is your mushroom?" A lot? A little? Then ask students to draw a mushroom on their paper that represents their observations.

PREPARATION

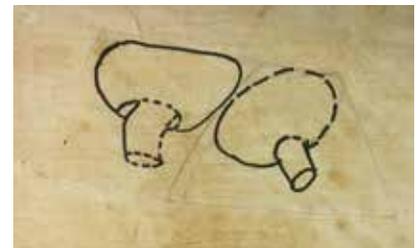
🌀 Introduce the lesson, explaining the "envelope" drawing technique to students. Explain that they will draw a small number of lines that represent the biggest **shape** surrounding the object that is being drawn. Describe this process to students and help them understand that looking at the shape of an object will help them draw the object more accurately.

SESSION 1

1. Have students work in groups of four to make paper tone. They should start by combining approximately a tablespoon of powdered **pigment** with approximately a tablespoon of school glue in each of the large plastic containers. Help students add water until containers are $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way full. Show students how to stir the mixture using paint brushes. The saturation of the mixture will vary depending on the amount of water added. Additional pigment can be mixed in to adjust the color.
2. Have students use large paintbrushes to paint the paper tone on their heavy-weight drawing paper. Then place the paper in a safe place to dry. It must be completely dry before proceeding to the drawing phase of the project.

SESSION 2

1. Ask students to look carefully at a single mushroom. Invite several students to the board to draw an envelope, a few lines that describe the shape of their mushroom.
2. Have the class use pencil to draw envelopes showing the shapes of their mushrooms on the toned paper.
3. Have students use only line to draw their mushrooms within their envelopes.
4. Have students place their mushroom with their neighbor's, making an arrangement of two mushrooms. On a new sheet of paper, students will draw envelopes that describe the shapes of both mushrooms.
5. Introduce types of line to students, including **dashed** and **broken lines**. Show students that drawing dots in a row creates a line. Explain that changing the pressure applied changes **line weight**.
6. Have students trace over their pencil lines with black pen or marker, using two or more types of lines.



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ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. Did student demonstrate an understanding of how to use the envelope drawing technique?
2. Did student use the envelope drawing technique to create a realistic drawing and solve complex visual problems?