

OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING AND PAINTING PART 1

Drawing and painting plants can help us learn about them and the world around us. Follow these steps to create amazing observational drawings!

Instructional videos available at [lanearts.org/online-learning](https://www.lanearts.org/online-learning)

SET UP YOUR MATERIALS

- Find something to draw with, like a pencil.
- Find something to draw on, like paper.
- Find a plant that is interesting to you. This could be something you find growing up between the cracks of the sidewalk, it could be a plant where you live, or it could be a food plant like a pear or apple. It is a good idea to double check that a plant is safe to touch before you pick it up.
- Optional: Find some things that could add color later. Materials like colored pencils, spices, food coloring, or paint could work.



OBSERVE AND DRAW THE SPECIMEN

- Look closely at the plant you have found. What do you see? What do you notice?
- Start lightly drawing the plant specimen. If it seems tricky, look for simple shapes that you can find and start by drawing those. Remember to be kind to yourself as you draw. It's OK for things to not be perfect. It's OK to try again. This is a learning experiment. Try asking yourself questions:
 - How many leaves does this plant have?
 - What shapes can I find?
 - What textures can I see or feel? Is it smooth, fuzzy, bumpy, shiny?
- When you think you have drawn the plant, look again. Are there any details you might have missed?
- Do you have any questions about the plant that you are looking at? Write them down or write down notes about what you have noticed.

EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOR

- When you are done drawing your detailed observational drawing, add color.
- Try experimenting with things that you can find near you to add color to your drawings. It's a good idea to test these "paints" on a different paper or surface than your final drawing. You could try adding color with these materials:
 - Spices! What colors can you make if you use just a tiny tiny amount of turmeric, paprika, or chili powder?
 - Food coloring! A little goes a long way. When you add more water the color will be lighter, when you add less water the color will be darker. What else can you discover?
 - What other materials can you experiment with to create paint? Remember to get permission first.

AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR DRAWING

When you are completely done with your observational drawing, find something else to draw and start the process again! Start a collection of drawings, make a nature journal, or create artwork to show what you care about. Remember that you can do research to answer any questions you might have about the plants you see. Be safe, have fun, and enjoy learning!

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OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING AND PAINTING PART 2

Drawing and painting insects can help us learn about them and the world around us. Follow these steps to create amazing observational drawings!

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

SET UP YOUR MATERIALS

- Find something to draw with, like a pencil.
- Find something to draw on, like paper.
- Find an insect that is interesting to you. This could be something you find near you or it could be a photo of an insect. If you are collecting an insect, be gentle and kind. Double check that it is safe to touch before collecting it. Remember that it will need air while you draw it. Let the creature go where you found it after you finish your drawing. Photos of insects also work really well!
- Optional: Find some things that could add color later. Materials like colored pencils, spices, food coloring, or paint could work.

OBSERVE AND DRAW THE SPECIMEN

- Look closely at the insect you have found. What do you see? What do you notice?
- Start lightly drawing the insect specimen. If it seems tricky, look for simple shapes that you can find and start by drawing those. Remember to be kind to yourself as you draw. It's OK for things to not be perfect. It's OK to try again. This is a learning experiment. Try asking yourself questions:
 - How many legs does this insect have?
 - What shapes can I find in the body and the legs of the insect?
 - What textures can I see or feel? Is it smooth, fuzzy, bumpy, shiny?
- When you think you have drawn the insect, look again. Are there any details you might have missed?
- Do you have any questions about the creature that you are looking at? Write them down or write down notes about what you have noticed.

EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOR

- When you are done drawing your detailed observational drawing, add color.
- Try experimenting with things that you can find near you to add color to your drawings. It's a good idea to test these "paints" on a different paper or surface than your final drawing. You could try adding color with these materials:
 - Make Up! Not all make up will work well, but some do. What can you discover? Remember to get permission first for any material you use.
 - What other materials can you experiment with to create paint?

AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR DRAWING

When you are completely done with your observational drawing, find something else to draw and start the process again! Start a collection of drawings, make a nature journal, or create artwork to show what you care about. Remember that you can do research to answer any questions you might have about the insects you see. Be safe, have fun, and enjoy learning!



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OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING AND PAINTING PART 3

Drawing and painting animals can help us learn about them and the world around us. Follow these steps to create amazing observational drawings!

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

SET UP YOUR MATERIALS

- Find something to draw with, like a pencil.
- Find something to draw on, like paper.
- Find an animal specimen that is interesting to you. This could be an animal near you (like a pet), or something left behind by an animal (like a shell or feather), or this could even be a person. Photos can also work really well!
- Optional: Find some things that could add color later. Materials like colored pencils, spices, food coloring, or paint could work.

OBSERVE AND DRAW THE SPECIMEN

- Look closely at the creature you have found. What do you see? What do you notice?
- Start lightly drawing the specimen. If it seems tricky, look for simple shapes that you can find and start by drawing those. Remember to be kind to yourself as you draw. It's OK for things to not be perfect. It's OK to try again. This is a learning experiment. Try asking yourself questions:
 - What shapes can I find in this specimen?
 - How many legs, fins, or other parts does this creature have?
 - What shapes are the creature's eyes? What else can I see?
 - What textures can I see or feel? Is it smooth, fuzzy, bumpy, shiny?
- When you think you have drawn the animal, look again. Are there any details you might have missed?
- Do you have any questions about the creature that you are looking at? Write them down or write down notes about what you have noticed.

EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOR

- When you are done drawing your detailed observational drawing, add color.
- Try experimenting with things that you can find near you to add color to your drawings. It's a good idea to test these "paints" on a different paper or surface than your final drawing. You could try adding color with these materials:
 - Coffee, Tea, or Juice! A little goes a long way, so you can try using the last little drop from these materials. What can you discover? Remember to get permission first for any material you use.
 - What other materials can you experiment with to create paint?

AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR DRAWING

When you are completely done with your observational drawing, find something else to draw and start the process again! Start a collection of drawings, make a nature journal, or create artwork to show what you care about. Remember that you can do research to answer any questions you might have about the creatures you see. Be safe, have fun, and enjoy learning!



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OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING AND PAINTING PART 4

Drawing and painting things that interest us can help us learn about them and the world around us. Follow these steps to create amazing observational drawings!

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

SET UP YOUR MATERIALS

- Find something to draw with, like a pencil.
- Find something to draw on, like paper.
- Find something that is interesting to you. This could be an animal specimen, a toy, a building, or anything else you can observe. I'm really interested in the structures of things so bones are interesting to me. This is a photo of a rat skull from above and below. Photos of things you are interested in can also work really well!
- Optional: Find some things that could add color later. Materials like colored pencils, spices, food coloring, or paint could work.



OBSERVE AND DRAW THE SPECIMEN

- Look closely at the object you are interested in. What do you see? What do you notice? Even if you have seen it many times before, it is important to look closely. We often miss things if we think we already know what something looks like.
- Start lightly drawing the object. If it seems tricky, look for simple shapes that you can find and start by drawing those. Remember to be kind to yourself as you draw. It's OK for things to not be perfect. It's OK to try again. This is a learning experiment. Ask yourself all of the important questions we used in the first three observational drawings.
- When you think you have drawn the thing that you are interested in, look again. Are there any details you might have missed? Can the shapes give you any clues about this object? Archeologists and other scientists use details to help identify creatures, find clues to how things were made, and better understand how things work.
- Do you have any questions about what you are looking at? Write them down or write down notes about what you have noticed.

EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOR

- When you are done drawing your detailed observational drawing, add color.
- Try experimenting with things that you can find near you to add color to your drawings. It's a good idea to test these "paints" on a different paper or surface than your final drawing. You could try adding color with these materials:
 - Try any of the materials we experimented with before! What else can you discover? Remember to get permission first for any material you use.
 - What materials worked best for you? What worked well about them?

AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR DRAWING

When you are completely done with your observational drawing, find something else to draw and start the process again! Start a collection of drawings, make a nature journal, or create artwork to show what you care about. Remember that you can do research to answer any questions you might have about everything you see. Be safe, have fun, and enjoy learning!

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