



Knowledge Organiser	Subject: Expressive Art and Design	Topic: Observational Drawings	Year: Reception
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What should I know?

How to draw different shapes
Different types of mark making tools

Key Questions

What are you drawing?
Can you add some detail to that picture.. e.g. eyes, nose, petals and detail

Key Resources



Interesting Facts

Observational drawing helps children develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Famous artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Vincent van Gogh were known for their observational drawings.

Children's observational drawings often reflect their unique perspective of

Key Knowledge and Skills

Understand the concept of observational drawing and why it is important.

Demonstrate basic observational drawing techniques such as sketching and outlining.

Use different art materials to create observational drawings.

Explore and appreciate their surroundings through observational drawing.

Develop their fine motor skills and creativity through art activities

Key Concepts

Introduction to Observational Drawing: Teach children what observational drawing is and why it is important.

Exploring Different Techniques: Show children different ways to observe and draw objects, such as sketching, shading, and using colour.

Practising Observation Skills: Engage children in activities that enhance their observational skills, such as still life drawing.

Creating Own Observational Drawings: Encourage children to apply learned techniques to create their own observational drawings.

the world around them.

In Year 1 the children will

Experiment with a variety of media.

Begin to control the types of marks made when using a range of media.

Draw on different surfaces using different textured and sized media.

Begin to produce different patterns and textures from observations, imagination and illustration.

Develop a range of tone using a pencil and different drawing techniques.

Produce an expanding range of patterns and textures.

Investigate textures by naming, describing, rubbing and copying them.

Begin to record simple media explorations in a sketchbook.

Key Vocabulary	
Observational drawing	Drawing from direct observation of real-life objects or scenes.
sketching	A quick, rough drawing used to capture the essence of an object or scene.
detail	The small, individual features that make up a larger image.
outline	The outer edge or shape of an object or scene.
perspective	Showing a three-dimensional object on a two-dimensional surface to create depth.



Linking Thinking Across Our Learning Journey						
Early Years	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They represent their own ideas	Develop a range of tone using a pencil and different drawing techniques.	Continue to investigate tone by drawing light / dark tones, patterns and shapes, using a pencil. Name, match and draw lines / marks from observation.	Begin to show an awareness of objects having a third dimension and perspective.	Have opportunities to develop drawing skills including the third dimension and perspective. Apply tone to drawings in a simple way.	Begin to develop an awareness of composition, scale and proportion. Develop a key element of their work: line, tone, pattern, texture	Develop their own style using tonal contrast and mixed media. Have opportunities to develop further simple perspective in their work using a single focal point and horizon. Develop an awareness of composition, scale and proportion.