

Don't Peek!

Blind Contour Drawing

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil or pen
- Object to draw

Rules

- Do NOT peek at your paper.
- Do NOT lift your pencil off of the paper.
- DO NOT erase.
- Draw very SLOWLY.

A blind contour is one continuous line made by very slowly drawing the edges and details of an object or person without looking at the paper. This project asks you to draw what you see in front of you, instead of what your brain remembers seeing. This is a great way to get your mind, hands, and eyes to work together. Your image might end up looking goofy and pieces may be out of place, but that's a good thing!



1 Get ready...

- ☐ Grab a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- ☐ Tape the paper down so it doesn't move.
- ☐ Decide what to draw.
Will it be another person? An object?
Yourself? (You can use a mirror if you want to draw yourself.)

2 Get set...

- ☐ Sit directly across from whatever you choose to draw.
- ☐ Look at your paper and think about how much space you want to use. Will you make it big or small?
- ☐ Try to use the whole paper. Decide where to start your drawing on the paper.

3 Go!

- ☐ Put your pencil down at the starting point and begin to draw slowly without picking up your pencil from the paper.
- ☐ Make sure you draw all the details.
If drawing a person, include their eyelashes, freckles, and wrinkles too.
- ☐ Don't look away from the object you are drawing, or you may lose your place on the paper.



Assignment!

Create 3 Blind Contour Drawings

- ☐ Make a portrait...
of yourself (by using a mirror), a family member, or a friend.
- ☐ Pick any object that best reflects you...
a toy, an animal or a piece of clothing.
- ☐ Choose something outside...
a tree, your home, a car, or the landscape.

Tips and tricks

- Turn your object upside down. It will help you notice more details.
- Backtrack over parts of your line drawing so you don't pick up your pencil.
- To improve hand-eye coordination, imagine that the pen is touching the edge of the object, not the paper.
- Use your pointer finger on the hand you don't write with to trace the edges of your object while your pencil is moving the same way. If you're moving too fast, close one eye.
- To help you slow down, pretend your pencil is a snail inching its around the edges of the object.
- To prevent peeking, poke your pencil through a piece of paper, hold a paper with your non-writing hand over the paper you are drawing on, turn your body to the side, or draw on a clipboard or notebook under the table.



Watch the how-to video!

Get more Blind Contour experiments and info at:
www.groundworkarts.com/dontpeek



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