Art Sub Plans: 12 One-Page Drawing Projects for Middle and High School

Print and go art lessons a substitute can run: every project fits on one page, with a finished example and a picture for every step.

PREVIEW

What is included (23 pages)

- Sub binder: cover, note to the substitute, project index, supplies checklist (4 pages)
- 12 one-page drawing projects, each with a finished example, a supplies list, 5 or 6 steps with pictures, and a Make it your own extension (12 pages)
- Templates: grid enlargement, tessellation squares, value scale, comic panels (4 pages)
- Grading rubric, completion checklist, student reflection slips (3 pages)

How it works

1. Pick any project. They work in any order.
2. Print one project page per student or one per table.
3. Students work alone from the page. The sub only hands out paper and supervises.
4. Each project fills 45 to 60 minutes. Make it your own stretches it to a 90-minute block.
5. Supplies: pencil, eraser, ruler, white paper, colored pencils or markers. No paint.
6. Print in color or ink-saver black and white, US Letter or A4.

What this preview shows: the note to the substitute, the project index, the supplies checklist, three different project pages (a 5-step project, a 6-step project and a project that uses a template), one template page, the grading rubric, the completion checklist, the reflection slips and one ink-saver page. Every product page is watermarked. The full pack has 23 pages; the last page of this preview lists all 12 projects.

Note to the Substitute

Thank you for covering my art class today.

Today's project: .....

Supplies are in: .....

Finished work goes: .....

How it works

- Each project fits on one page and takes about 45 to 60 minutes. Any project works on any day, in any order.
- Give each student the project page (one per student, or one per table to share) and a sheet of white paper.
- Students work alone, step by step. The pictures show every stage, so please remind them to read the whole step before they draw.

Templates and special supplies

- Four projects need a template page, found after the project pages: Grid Enlargement Drawing, Tessellation Tile, Shaded Sphere and Cast Shadow, and Six-Panel Comic Strip. Copy one per student, except the tessellation page, which holds squares for four students.
- Tessellation Tile uses scissors and tape. Please count the scissors back in.
- Blind Contour Portraits is partner work. With an odd number, one group of three sits in a circle and each student draws the person on their left.

If a student finishes early

- Every page ends with Make it your own, an optional extension that fills a longer class.
- After that, the student fills in a reflection slip.

Clean-up (last 5 minutes)

- Pencils, erasers, rulers and colored pencils go back where they came from.
- Paper scraps go in the recycling, and eraser crumbs come off the desks.
- After the shoe drawing, shoes go back on.

What to collect

- Every drawing, finished or not, with the student's name on the back.
- The reflection slips, clipped to the drawings.
- Please fill in the completion checklist and leave everything on my desk.

Thank you so much for your help today.

Did this pack work well for your class? A quick review helps other teachers find it and earns you TpT credits. Thank you!

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Project Index

Every project with its time, supplies and page. Any project works on any day, in any order.

#	PROJECT	ART SKILL	MIN.	SUPPLIES	TEMPLATE	PAGE
1	**One-Point Perspective Hallway** Ruler	Linear perspective and the vanishing point	50	Pencil, Eraser, **Ruler**, White paper, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 5
2	**3D Block-Letter Name** Ruler	Form, depth and shading	50	Pencil, Eraser, **Ruler**, White paper, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 6
3	**Blind Contour Portraits** Partner work	Observation and contour line	45	Pencil, White paper, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 7
4	**Grid Enlargement Drawing** Template: source picture and big grid	Proportion and scale	50	Pencil, Eraser, **Template page**, White paper, **Ruler**, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	Yes, p. 17	p. 8
5	**Tessellation Tile** Scissors and tape; template: starter square	Repeating pattern and shape	55	Pencil, Eraser, White paper, **Scissors**, **Tape**, **Template page**, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	Yes, p. 18	p. 9
6	**Shaded Sphere and Cast Shadow** Template: value scale strip	Value, light and shadow	45	Pencil, Eraser, **Template page**, White paper	Yes, p. 19	p. 10
7	**Impossible Shapes** Ruler	Illusion and geometric drawing	50	Pencil, Eraser, **Ruler**, White paper, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 11
8	**City Skyline at Sunset** Colored pencils or markers	Color gradient and silhouette	45	Pencil, Eraser, **Ruler**, White paper, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 12
9	**Symmetry Creature** Fold the paper	Bilateral symmetry and invented form	50	Pencil, Eraser, White paper, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 13
10	**Six-Panel Comic Strip** Template: 6 panels	Visual storytelling and sequence	60	Pencil, Eraser, **Template page**, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	Yes, p. 20	p. 14
11	**Shoe Contour Drawing** A shoe (the student's own)	Observational drawing and detail	50	Pencil, Eraser, White paper, Black fine-liner or marker, **Your own shoe**	No	p. 15
12	**My Dream Room From Above** Ruler	Plan view, scale and design	55	Pencil, Eraser, **Ruler**, White paper, Colored pencils or markers, Black fine-liner or marker	No	p. 16

Supplies in **bold** are the ones not every room has: ruler, scissors, tape, a template page or a shoe. Templates follow the project pages; copy one per student.

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Supplies Checklist

Check what the room has. The table below shows which projects each supply is for, so you can pick projects that fit the room.

- ☐ **Pencil** — All 12 projects — How many: .....
- ☐ **Eraser** — Projects 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Ruler** — Projects 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12 — How many: .....
- ☐ **White paper** — Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Colored pencils or markers** — Projects 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Black fine-liner or marker** — Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Scissors** — Project 5 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Tape** — Project 5 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Template page** — Projects 4, 5, 6, 10 — How many: .....
- ☐ **Your own shoe** — Project 11 — How many: .....

PROJECT	Pencil	Eraser	Ruler	White paper	Colored pencils or markers	Black fine-liner or marker	Scissors	Tape	Template page	Your own shoe
1 One-Point Perspective Hallway	●	●	●	●	●	●				
2 3D Block-Letter Name	●	●	●	●	●	●				
3 Blind Contour Portraits	●			●		●				
4 Grid Enlargement Drawing	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	
5 Tessellation Tile	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	
6 Shaded Sphere and Cast Shadow	●	●		●					●	
7 Impossible Shapes	●	●	●	●	●	●				
8 City Skyline at Sunset	●	●	●	●	●	●				
9 Symmetry Creature	●	●		●	●	●				
10 Six-Panel Comic Strip	●	●			●	●			●	
11 Shoe Contour Drawing	●	●		●		●				●
12 My Dream Room From Above	●	●	●	●	●	●				

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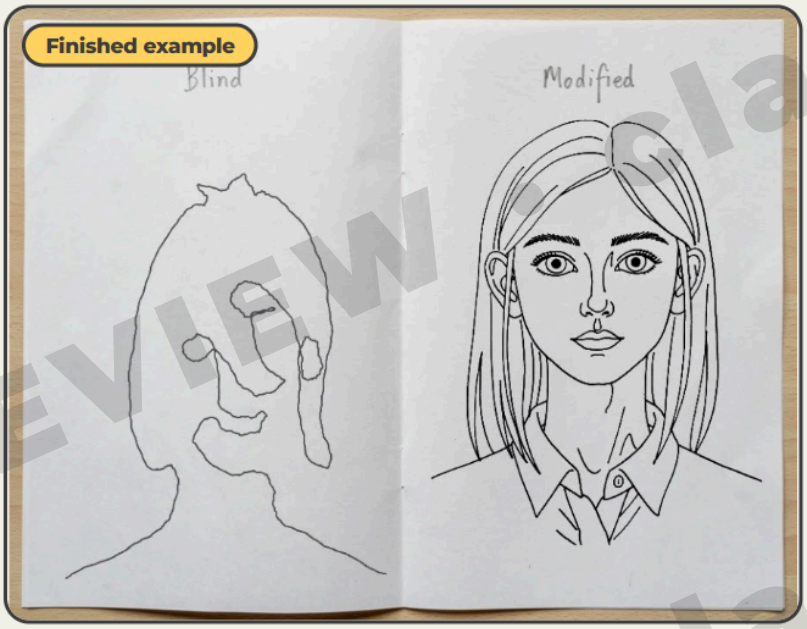
3 Blind Contour Portraits

Project 3 of 12

Observation and contour line | about 45 minutes

Contour drawing trains your eyes: you draw the edges you see, slowly, as if your pencil were touching them. You will draw a partner twice, first without looking at the paper, then glancing at it now and then.



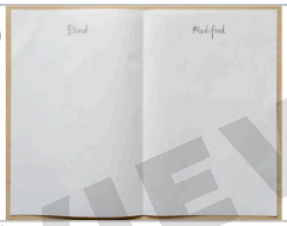
YOU NEED

- Pencil
- White paper
- Black fine-liner or marker

Tips: Warm up first: draw your own hand for one minute without looking at the paper. Move your eyes and the pencil at the same slow speed.

Make it your own: on the back, draw your partner in profile with a modified contour, then fill the background with a pattern made only of lines.

1

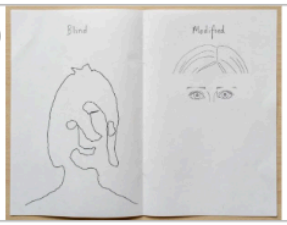


Sit facing a partner. Fold your paper in half, short edges together, and open it. Write Blind at the top of the left half and Modified at the top of the right half.

2

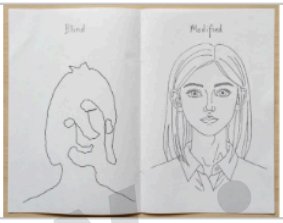
Blind contour: look only at your partner's face, never the paper. On the left half, let the pencil slowly follow the edges your eyes travel, without lifting it. Take 5 minutes.

3



Look at it together. Wobbly lines mean you really looked, so do not erase. Now the modified contour: on the right half, glance at the paper only to place each feature.

4



Keep your eyes on your partner most of the time and draw slowly. Lift the pencil only to start a new part: nose, mouth, ears, hair, neck and collar.

5

Go over the modified contour with fine-liner or dark pencil. Add details with line only: strands of hair, eyebrows, folds in the collar. Contour drawings use line, not shading.

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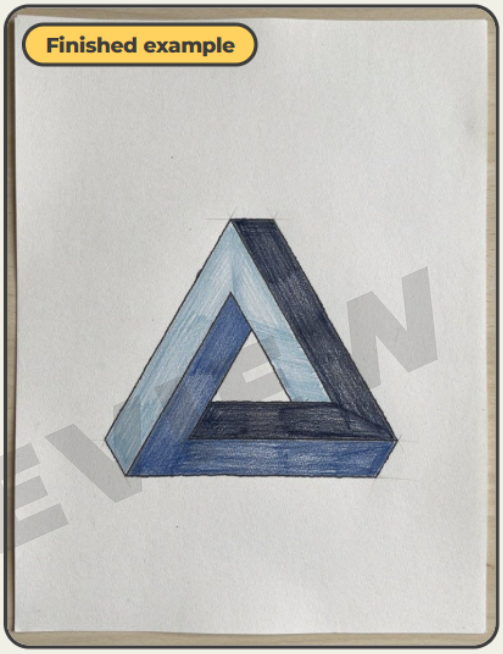
7 Impossible Shapes

Project 7 of 12

Illusion and geometric drawing | about 50 minutes



An impossible triangle looks solid, but it could never be built: each corner makes sense on its own, and together they trick your eye. You will construct one exactly with a ruler.

YOU NEED

Pencil | Eraser | Ruler | White paper | Colored pencils or markers | Black fine-liner or marker

Tips: Check: both slanted sides should measure about 6 inches. Keep construction lines very light; even 1/8 inch off will show in the corners.

1

Draw a 6-inch line near the bottom of the paper. From its middle, measure 5 1/4 inches straight up and make a dot. Connect the dot to both ends.

2

On every side, mark 3/4 inch and 1 1/2 inches from each corner. Lightly join marks at the same distance but near different corners, so each line runs parallel to a side.

3

At each corner, join the two 3/4 inch marks with a short line and erase the tip beyond it. Darken the outside edges.

4

Darken the small center triangle. At each of its corners (turn the paper so it points up), extend its right side past the corner to the next light line.

5

At each cut corner, turned to point up: from the left end of the cut, darken the light line that slopes down to the right. Stop at the first dark line.

6

Erase the light lines and ink the edges. Light comes from above: give each of the three bent bands one value, light, medium or dark, the same all the way along.

Make it your own: draw a second, smaller impossible triangle with 4-inch sides, a 3 1/2 inch height and marks at 1/2 inch and 1 inch, then fill the background with a pattern that makes both shapes stand out.

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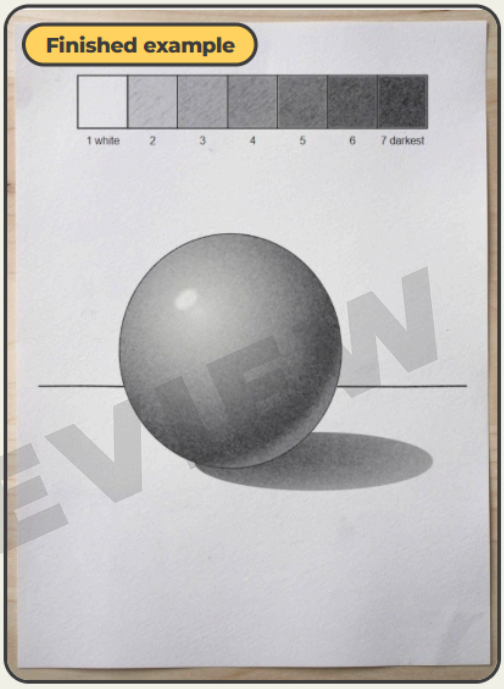
6 Shaded Sphere and Cast Shadow

Project 6 of 12

Value, light and shadow · about 45 minutes



Value means how light or dark something is. By shading a circle with smooth values from light to dark, you will turn it into a round ball resting on a table.

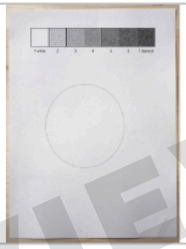
YOU NEED

Pencil · Eraser · Template page, p. 19 · White paper

Tips: Build dark values in light layers. Pressing hard at the start leaves shiny marks that will not blend.

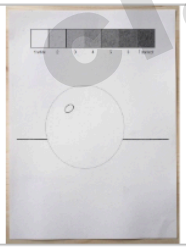
Make it your own: on white paper, draw a cube and a cylinder lit from the same upper left side, each with a highlight, a core shadow and a cast shadow.

1



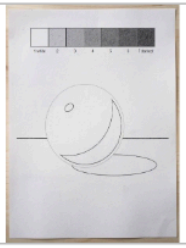
Fill in the value scale on the template: box 1 stays white, box 7 is as dark as your pencil goes, and each box is a little darker than the last.

2



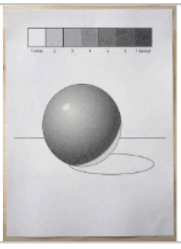
Light comes from the upper left. Draw a small oval highlight near the circle's upper left, and a horizontal table-edge line on each side of the ball, not across it.

3



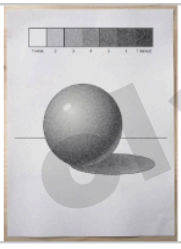
Lightly outline the core shadow, a curved band a little in from the lower right edge, and the cast shadow, a flat oval from under the ball toward the lower right.

4



Shade the ball, following its curve: values 2 and 3 around the highlight, getting darker toward the core shadow, which is value 6. Leave the highlight and the thin edge strip white.

5



Shade the thin strip along the lower right edge with value 4: reflected light bouncing up from the table. Shade the cast shadow: value 7 right under the ball, lighter farther out.

6

Smooth the shading with small circular strokes, then lift the highlight clean with the eraser. Compare the ball with your value scale: does it use all 7 values?

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Value Scale and Sphere

Template for Project 6: Shaded Sphere and Cast Shadow (p. 10)

Name .....

1 white	2	3	4	5	6	7 darkest

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Grading Rubric

Works for any project in this pack. Score each row from 4 to 1; the total is out of 16.

Student ..... **Project** .....

CRITERIA	4	3	2	1	SCORE
Following the steps	Completed every step in order; all parts of the project are there.	Completed most steps; one small part is missing.	Skipped or rushed several steps; parts are missing.	Attempted only a few steps; the project is far from complete.	☐
Craftsmanship	Clean, confident lines, neat edges and careful color or shading; no smudges or stray marks.	Mostly neat, with a few smudges or uneven areas.	Rushed in places; guide lines, smudges or gaps distract.	Careless work; it is hard to tell what was drawn.	☐
Use of the art skill	Shows the skill named on the page clearly and correctly, for example lines meet at the vanishing point or values go smoothly from light to dark.	Shows the skill with small errors.	Attempts the skill, with major errors.	The skill is not visible in the work.	☐
Effort and creativity	Used the whole time; personal choices make the work original.	Used most of the time; some personal choices.	Stopped early; few personal choices.	Little effort is visible.	☐
				Total	☐ / 16

Comments

.....

.....

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.....

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Completion Checklist

For the substitute: check each box that applies.

Date ..... **Class** .....

#	STUDENT	PROJECT	FINISHED	EXTENSION	REFLECTION SLIP	NOTES
1			☐	☐	☐	
2			☐	☐	☐	
3			☐	☐	☐	
4			☐	☐	☐	
5			☐	☐	☐	
6			☐	☐	☐	
7			☐	☐	☐	
8			☐	☐	☐	
9			☐	☐	☐	
10			☐	☐	☐	
11			☐	☐	☐	
12			☐	☐	☐	
13			☐	☐	☐	
14			☐	☐	☐	
15			☐	☐	☐	
16			☐	☐	☐	
17			☐	☐	☐	
18			☐	☐	☐	
19			☐	☐	☐	
20			☐	☐	☐	

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Reflection Slips

Cut apart along the dashed lines. One slip per student, clipped to the drawing.

Reflection

Name .....

What I made:

.....

The art skill I practiced:

.....

What went well:

.....

.....

What I would change next time:

.....

.....

Reflection

Name .....

What I made:

.....

The art skill I practiced:

.....

What went well:

.....

.....

What I would change next time:

.....

.....

Reflection

Name .....

What I made:

.....

The art skill I practiced:

.....

What went well:

.....

.....

What I would change next time:

.....

.....

Reflection

Name .....

What I made:

.....

The art skill I practiced:

.....

What went well:

.....

.....

What I would change next time:

.....

.....

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8 City Skyline at Sunset

Project 8 of 12

Color gradient and silhouette | about 45 minutes

A silhouette is a shape filled with one flat dark color, so only its outline tells what it is. Against a glowing sunset gradient, a black city skyline looks dramatic.

Finished example

YOU NEED

- Pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler
- White paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Black fine-liner or marker

Tips: No black marker? Press hard with a black colored pencil in two layers. Color the sky first so the black does not smear into it.

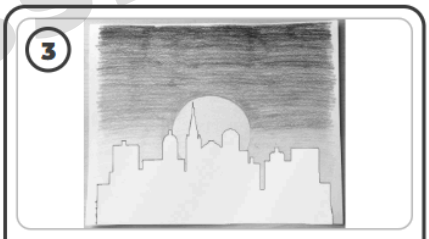
1

Turn your paper sideways. Lightly draw a skyline across the lower third with the ruler: buildings of different heights and widths, some overlapping, with a spire, a dome or stepped roofs.

2

Draw a large half circle sun low behind the buildings and color it pale yellow. The sun is the light source, so the sky will be brightest near it.

3



Color the sky in bands from the skyline up: yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, dark blue at the top. Overlap each band into the next so there are no hard edges.

4

Draw a few small windows in the buildings. Fill every building solid black, going carefully around the windows. Color the windows yellow.

5

With fine-liner, add thin black details that rise above the roofs: antennas, a crane, power lines, a few birds. In a silhouette, the outline alone tells what things are.

Make it your own: add water along the bottom that reflects the sunset colors and the buildings upside down, broken into wavy stripes.

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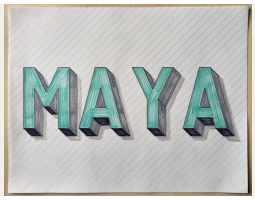
All 12 projects in the pack

Each one fits on one page and fills 45 to 60 minutes. Grades 6 to 12.

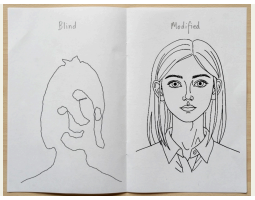
1 One-Point Perspective Hallway

Linear perspective and the vanishing point · about 50 minutes



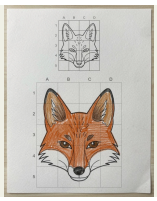
2 3D Block-Letter Name

Form, depth and shading · about 50 minutes



3 Blind Contour Portraits

Observation and contour line · about 45 minutes

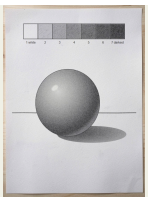


4 Grid Enlargement Drawing

Proportion and scale · about 50 minutes · template included

5 Tessellation Tile

Repeating pattern and shape · about 55 minutes · template included



6 Shaded Sphere and Cast Shadow

Value, light and shadow · about 45 minutes · template included

7 Impossible Shapes

Illusion and geometric drawing · about 50 minutes

8 City Skyline at Sunset

Color gradient and silhouette · about 45 minutes

9 Symmetry Creature

Bilateral symmetry and invented form · about 50 minutes

10 Six-Panel Comic Strip

Visual storytelling and sequence · about 60 minutes · template included

11 Shoe Contour Drawing

Observational drawing and detail · about 50 minutes

12 My Dream Room From Above

Plan view, scale and design · about 55 minutes

Thank you! If this works for your class, a quick review helps other teachers find it and earns you TpT credits.

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