



Quick Guide to Scientific Drawing



INTRODUCTION

Why do scientists draw?

The two goals of scientific drawings are to make and record observations. In other words, scientific drawings are not just art. They are a way of studying the world. You do not have to be an amazing artist to make an amazing scientific drawing! Drawing is a great way to improve your memory of an observation, but scientific drawings can also be shared with other scientists. Because of this, they should include information along with the picture to identify what parts of your subject (the thing you are drawing) are the most important.

MATERIALS

- Notebook, paper or journal for drawing
- Pencil and/or color pencils

IMPORTANT FEATURES

1. Add a title and date. Anyone looking at your picture should know what it is and when it was drawn.
2. Make observations. Before you start, look closely at what you will draw. Some things don't stay still!
3. Draw only what you see. We often have ideas in our head of what things should look like, but what if your subject is unusual?
4. Don't draw too much. Leave out unnecessary details. If you are focused on drawing a bird, for example, you probably don't have to include the tree it's sitting in.
5. Label important features. Draw lines to important items (be careful not to overlap your lines) and label them. If you aren't sure what to call something, describe it!
6. Add scale. How big is your subject? You can add an exact measurement if you have it, or compare it to a common item.
7. Include other observations and questions. Did the animal you were drawing do something unexpected? Is there something you want to know more about? Add your notes to the side or underneath your drawing!
8. Anything else you want! - Do you want to color your drawing? Do you want to research your subject and add fun facts or identifications?

