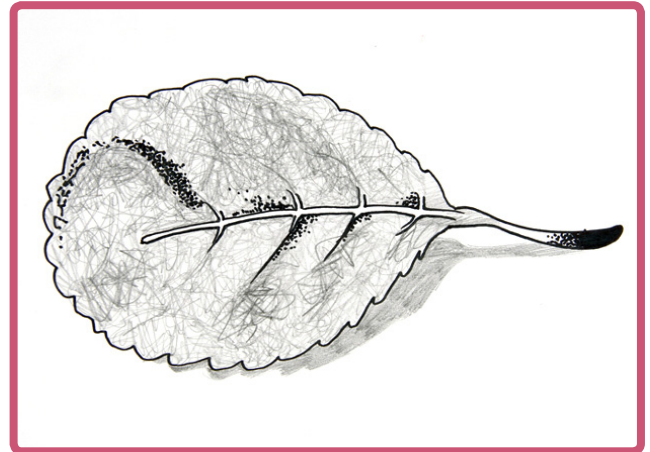


### Tools and Techniques - Drawing

Learn to make marks with all kinds of implements to get varied and sometimes, unexpected effects.

Of course you can make a drawing by simply using your finger to draw in the sand at the beach, or in condensation on a window. For more permanent results though, drawing tools are what you need.



#### Wellbeing benefits:

Be resourceful  
Keep learning  
Think flexibly

**“Even though I draw quite a bit, it was good to do this activity, to loosen my mind and think of new ways to capture something on paper.”**

### Examples of how this activity can help me:

I want to be more confident with my self-expression.

### Length:

Varied - Spend time experimenting with each tool. Choose to work through all, a selection, or one tool in one sitting.

### Who can I do this activity with?

On my own or with others.

### Where can I do this activity?

It's best to do at a table, with all materials to hand.

### How often can I do this activity?

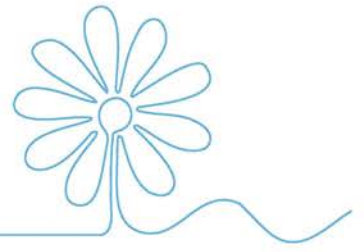
With a bit of practice, a good range of marks can be made with any tools. Having this 'vocabulary' of marks will allow a more expressive and more effective drawing. Use mark making techniques to spruce up drawings and add interesting detail.

### What will I need?

- Some plain paper, or a sketch book
- A range of drawing tools. Suggestions include:
  - Pencils, charcoal, graphite stick, eraser
  - Ink and nib / cotton bud / drinking straw / quill or feather
  - Pens: broad and fine markers, biros
  - Tissues (to wipe charcoal / blot ink)

### Did you know?

By building our imagination, finding alternative ways to use materials and generating new ideas, we can build our confidence and develop a positive approach to problem solving.



1

### Getting started:

- The tools you choose to use when you begin mark making are really up to you. Read through this 'Tools and Techniques' PDF. Then you can explore what the different drawing tools can do
- Watch our 'Tools and Techniques' video demonstration online

2

### What to do:

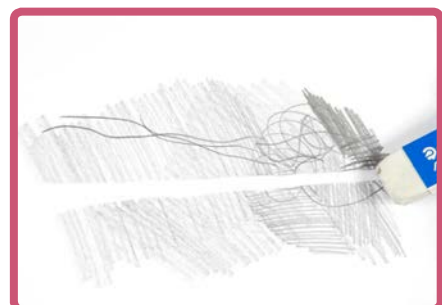
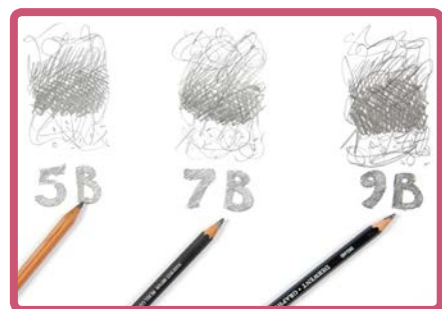
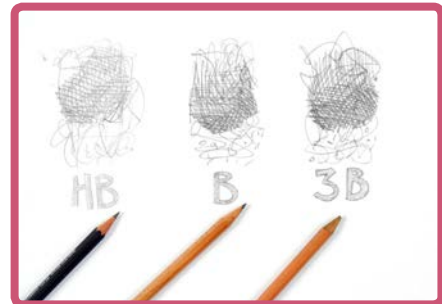
- Using each tool you have in turn, draw lots of different marks (eg. lines, dots, circles, random shapes and scribbles) to explore what you can achieve with it. Try making delicate marks, bold marks, try smudging the marks you make
- Notice how different tools create such different effects, as you try each of them. With a bit of practice, you'll find that you can make a good range of marks with them. Having this 'vocabulary' of marks will allow you to draw more expressively, and more effectively

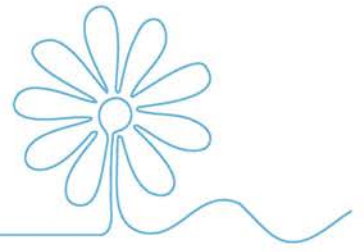
### Pencils:

**Pencils** are perhaps the most obvious choice we might think of. Pencils are graded by letters and numbers, which are written on them. An HB pencil is fairly hard and is useful for making a consistent line, such as writing, so you'll find them in standard stationery sets. The B pencils are softer – 1B being a little softer than HB, and then up through the numbers to 9B which is the softest. With very soft pencils you can get a darker shade and the marks they make can be smudged, to an extent, rather like charcoal (which we'll talk about later on).

Another interesting use of soft pencils (and graphite/ charcoal) is to combine their use with erasers to make light marks on a dark background. To do this, you would shade/ block in a dark shape on your paper, possibly smudging it a little. Then take an eraser and carefully use it to lift (remove) areas of the dark pencil, so making light marks on dark. This can be effective and unusual.

Pencils are therefore surprisingly versatile tools. You can vary the type of mark by changing the angle of the pencil, as shown below right. You can buy a range of different grades of pencil from an art shop. So now go ahead and try making marks with all the pencils you have, including using the pencil on the side of its point, and using an eraser to lift portions of pencil marks away.





### Charcoal and Compressed Charcoal:

**Charcoal** is a special type of charred wood. It comes in various widths of stick – broad to narrow. Narrow sticks are fragile and break easily so be gentle with them. Charcoal is very versatile to draw with. Charcoal marks can be narrow or broad, delicate or bold; they can be soft and are easily smudged. They are also easy to remove using a tissue and/ or eraser, to give you the option of making light marks on a darker background (see more about this above in 'Pencils').

**Compressed charcoal** is great for achieving the darkest of dark tones, though you can't remove it cleanly like ordinary charcoal.

You can use a **fixative spray** from an art shop to spray your finished work to stop it smudging. **Hairspray** also works if that's more convenient (also cheaper). You can get charcoal and compressed charcoal sticks from an art shop.

- Try mark making with charcoal. *How does it differ to pencil or other things you have so far used?*



### Indian ink:

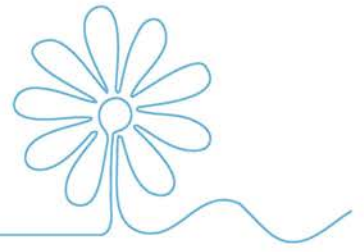
You can use any ink. **Indian ink** (from art shops) and **Chinese ink** are popular for drawing as they dry to a waterproof finish and are lightfast (meaning the ink doesn't fade). To get a wide variety of marks, you can apply the ink in many ways. Here we've used a **nib** (from an art shop), **quill** ([Brain Boosting](#)>[Challenge Yourself](#)>[Make a Quill](#)) make your own), and an everyday **drinking straw** and **cotton bud**.

- Try mark making with ink and one of the above tools. *What do you think of the results?* If you've tried more than one tool, compare the differences in marks that each has made



### Handy hint:

Always have tissues when working with ink or charcoal: use to blot, smudge or deal with spillages. Note that all inks and paints, and especially waterproof ink, should be used with care as it will not come off clothes and furnishings. Wear an apron and cover tables etc.

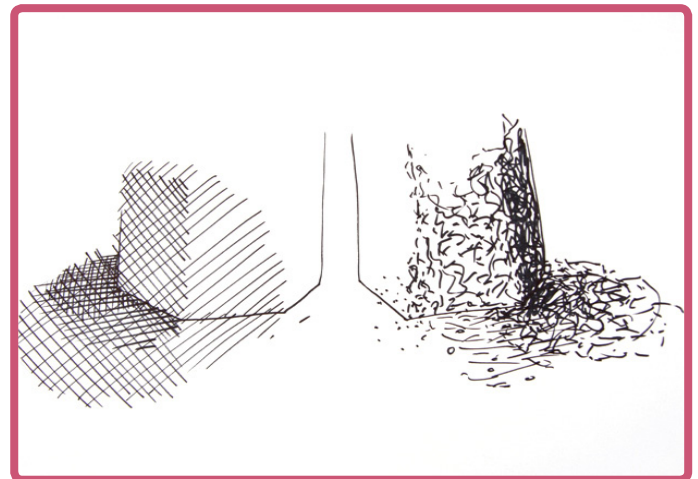


### Pens: Broad and fine markers, biros

You don't always need to have specialist art equipment – a biro will do. Experiment with whatever pens you have, and find out what marks they make.

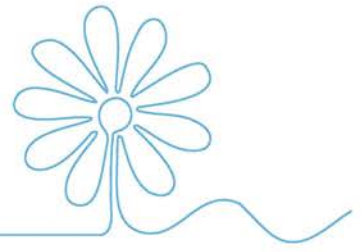
Useful techniques include **“hatching”** (drawing lots of parallel lines to look like shade) or building up a texture with dots or random marks. Both these techniques are included right. Fine and broad markers, and also a biro are used here as an example.

- Try some marks with pens – *how do you like the feel of each pen compared with pencils and charcoal?*



### What next?

- Keep a sketch-book and use that to experiment with different drawing tools. You'll then have a useful record of different effects you can achieve with them
- This exercise serves as a simple introduction for the beginner, or a warm-up for the experienced. To work more on your skills, it may be useful to visit the BBC learning zone, which has a good range of video demonstrations about drawing. There are many excellent books available about drawing, too – try your local library, bookstore or online stores for more ideas
- If you'd like to develop drawing skills to a higher level, you may like to consider joining a group or class. Either as a student or as part of a hobby group, this is a good way to progress, and share ideas and encouragement. See our 'Links' Page online for opportunities
- Fill in your Reflective Diary over the page
- Have you taken your Wellbeing Temperature recently? You can do this at [start2.co.uk](http://start2.co.uk)
- To see how versatile even a single drawing tool can be, try the 'Make Marks to Music' activity ([Strengthen Your Thinking > Think Laterally](#))



### Tools and Techniques - Drawing

Name:

### Reflective Diary

Date:

#### What did I do?

I tried a range of different drawing tools to find various marks and effects to use in drawing.

#### Wellbeing benefits:

The 'Tools and Techniques' Drawing activity can help me to:

- Be resourceful
- Keep learning
- Think flexibly

I enjoyed.....

I learnt.....

When I look at my work I feel.....

Which parts of the exercise made me feel creative?

What will I do with my work?