



Introduction

Welcome back! This activity is all about drawing and painting a face. This time the demonstration pictures are a block and so they don't have numbers - sorry. They go from left to right as if you're reading a page.

If you look at the pictures they show a portrait developing. I made this person up, it's easier to do that for this exercise. It's also really nice to invent someone completely new! Try not to have an idea of who is going to appear as you draw and that will give you the freedom to experiment (and not be self-critical, which is forbidden in my worksheets).

Let's get going:

1. Sketch an oval - an upside down egg shape. You will be adjusting your shape later so don't worry too much about if it's right or wrong, this is a guide shape. Draw lightly with your pencil - pressing hard makes mistakes harder to erase or work around.
2. Draw a horizontal (side to side) line half way down the face shape. Then add another vertical (top to bottom) line dividing the face in half. Cont...

You will need:

- Pencil and eraser
- Paper (I've used watercolour paper)
- Paints
- Water
- One kitchen roll sheet

2. ...You can just do the bottom half as you can see I've done in the first picture. This is your nose line.
3. Very lightly sketch two flat-topped circles below the half way line - you can see in the first picture - these will become the eyes. You can feel your own eye sockets if you like!
4. Draw almond shapes inside the circle as in the picture. Now you need the coloured part of the eye - the iris so draw curved lines to make this shape. If you look in the mirror at your own eyes you can see that the curve is almost a straight line, you can't see much of the round of your iris unless you open your eyes very wide! Do some eyes sketches on another piece of paper to practice some different expressions in the eyes.

5. The eyebrows follow the line of the top of the circle. You can add to these later to bring in more expression. I've just thickened mine for the moment.
6. That's enough on the eyes for now. Draw a short line half way between the eyebrow line and the chin, this will be the bottom of the nose. Another line half way between the nose and the chin - this will be your mouth. I've shown this in the drawing.
7. If you look closely at the fifth picture on the top row you can see that I've curved the lines on both the nose line and the mouth line. This is something you can experiment with. The nose is a line with one main curved line in the middle, and two smaller curved lines at the sides.
8. Add the neck, which is in line with the outside of the eyes or wider - most people have quite sturdy necks, lots of weight to hold up!
9. Add the ears: top of the ear is in line with the eyes (think spectacles and where they hang on to) and the bottoms come down to the nose line. Draw a cup handle shape.
10. I then have used the eraser to clean up the drawing, rubbing out unwanted lines (all the eye socket lines for example) plus altering the shapes as I think works best. I have added some shading - I plan to paint the face so have kept the shading very slight. I have imagined that the light is coming from the left side of the face, so slight shadows are made by the nose, chin and to the right of the face. Experiment with harder and softer pencil shading.
11. Hair and shoulders: these give real personality to the person. You can try different styles of hair. Use a simple shape to show the style, rather than individual hairs.
12. Shoulders tell a lot about people. Older people tend to have more hunched shoulders that are level with their ears. Some people have lower shoulders, or they could be hunched up. Try different variations. I added a shirt and collar to mine but as you can see in the last picture I managed to alter it for a more interesting costume.
13. I've added some colour. You can use the method from the watery colour wheel in the last worksheet, making the paper damp and adding colour. This makes the colour thinner and you can build it up slowly. Skin colours are basically mixes of brown. Use lots of water to make the paint thin. To make brown you use red, yellow and blue - plus white to lighten. You can try different mixes to balance the brown tones you want. Or use the browns in your paints, but don't forget to mix for the shadows and highlights. Or you can add in greens, blues and reds for a more expressionistic painting.
14. Try and avoid strong colours, you can add more colour later to strengthen it, but to start off with a strong colour can dominate the picture and make you feel it's spoilt. It's much more fun to build it up, leaving it to dry between layers so you can think about which part you like and which you would like to change. Cont...

Art: How to draw a face

Emma Holliday

14. ... To add texture you can use a paper towel to take colour off when it's still wet, or even make the colour wet and take off some of the colour.
15. Towards the end of your painting (or drawing) you'll spend some more time looking at your picture than working on it. Working slowly and in stages will give you confidence. You can start to draw friends and family, people on the TV (who you can freeze on the screen and draw from), from photographs - the list is endless.

Sometimes the best way is to invent faces! The last picture on the grid is an example by someone else. We are all different and all of you will make a different face.

I hope you have enjoyed this activity.

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