How to draw

Graffiti style lettering

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Supplies: pencil, paper, eraser, and markers, color pencils, or other coloring tools.

How lightly can you draw? You’ll want to draw as lightly as you can for steps #1-3. These steps are just a sketch which you will be erasing.

1. Choose a letter to draw.

   Write your letter in one dimension in pencil as lightly as you can.

2. Draw a box around each line in the letter to turn it into a 2-dimensional shape.

   Each line will become a straight or curvy rectangle.

3. Draw shapes on the edge of your letter.

   You can use simple shapes, like circles and triangles, or more complex shapes, like stars or bananas.

4. Trace the outside lines of your letter drawing using a regular pencil.

   The outside lines include the holes in the letters “B” and “O”. As you trace, if you reach a place where lines cross, turn to stay on the outside so you don’t cross lines.

5. Erase the inside lines so you are left with one shape outline.

6. Use marker or a dark color pencil to trace the graffiti-style letter outline you have created.

7. Now you can color in the letter however you want. You can use gradients or patterns or whatever feels right for the letter you are drawing. You are the artist!

As you practice and experiment with this technique, you may find there are steps you can skip. Compare your art with classmates to see if you can give each other ideas.

HAVE FUN!