

## Tips

### Charcoal

Charcoal, when used as a dark line doesn't reflect the light as graphite can. Often, the darkest values of a realistic picture are shadows, where you would not want a reflection. Wood, shadows, dark lines, and coarse fabrics are all good subjects for charcoal.

For charcoal, try a thick paper with only a little texture. If paper is too smooth, the charcoal won't stick. If it's too rough, you may have difficulty drawing detail.

Using pencils and charcoal can be very messy. Rest your hand on a clean piece of paper as you draw so that you don't smudge your work. Use the eraser to remove streaks from the edges of your paper when you are finished.



### Graphite Pencils

Your pencils are graded from soft to hard. The higher the number followed by B—the softer the pencil. In the other direction, the higher the number followed by H—the harder the pencil. The middle ground is the HB pencil.

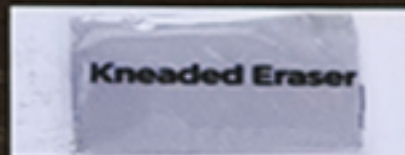
It is very important that you are comfortable with your pencils and what marks can be made on various paper qualities.

You need to be aware that graphite reflects light and won't create the dark tones that can be achieved with charcoal. But, they are a lot cleaner, and easier to use for detailed areas. Skin, shiny surfaces and smooth fabric are good subjects for graphite pencil.



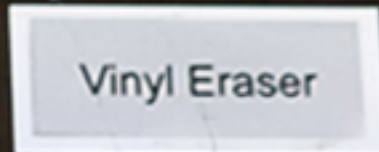
### Kneaded Eraser

This versatile eraser is a must-have for any sketch. Knead it into a point and you can erase tiny areas. You can also use it to lift off layers of pencil or charcoal for highlights.



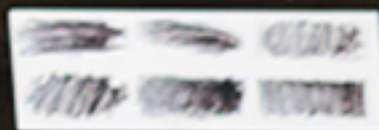
### Erase

Drag your kneaded eraser and eraser through areas of charcoal and pencil. Experiment with your kneaded eraser by dabbing it on your page to lift areas of color.



### Blending

Smooth areas can be achieved blending. You can use stumps, tortillons instead of your finger of color.



## Step 1

Once you have chosen your paper, rough out your composition very lightly with a graphite pencil. Often HB is a good starting point. As you begin to fill in the detail you might want to erase lines as you work so that you don't end up with hard outer edges on your finished picture.



## Step 2

Start filling in the detail. Pay close attention to the light source and identify where the shadows appear in your picture. Try and think about the value scale when you see your composition as a whole. Which are the lightest, and darkest areas?



## Step 3

Gradually layer in the darker tones, remembering that you may prefer to use charcoal for the really black areas. For grass or brush, don't think about trying to represent each blade or leaf with a pencil stroke, but rather work on giving an impression with your lines.



## Step 4

Blend shiny areas for a smooth effect. Use your kneaded eraser to lift off areas you want lightened, and tidy up stray marks. Pick up graphite or charcoal on your paper towel from a scrap of paper and then add it to the picture for soft shadows.



## Step by Step Instructions