

ART · GRADES 4–5

Still Life

Drawing what's right in front of you

Set up the scene

Place 3–4 simple objects on a table — a jug, an apple, a banana, a folded cloth. Use ONE light source (a lamp or window). Sit where you can see them clearly. Take 30 seconds just to LOOK before drawing — really notice the shapes, the shadows, where things overlap.

Six steps

1. Lightly sketch the BIG SHAPES — circles, ovals, rectangles. Don't draw details yet.
2. Adjust where the objects sit. Are they overlapping? Make sure your shapes do too.
3. Refine the OUTLINES — turn the rough shapes into more accurate edges of the real objects.
4. Decide where the LIGHT is coming from. Mark a tiny X on the lightest spot of each object.
5. Add SHADING — start light, build up dark gradually. Leave the lightest areas alone.
6. Add the CAST SHADOW — the shadow each object throws onto the table. This is what makes it look 3D.

Tip — squint

If you're not sure how dark something should be, squint your eyes. The details disappear and you just see light and dark patches. That's the information you need to draw.

