

How To Teach Drawing

Knowing how to draw is not necessary for the educator. It is important, however, to recognize the basic shapes of objects and living things by continual observation. You will also hone your observation skills by asking students what shapes they see in objects, thereby training the students along with yourself. The architectural lines of straight, curved, and crooked, the shapes of circle, oval, triangle, rectangle, square, and the forms of sphere, "egg", pyramid, cone, and cube are the basic tools our Creator used in Creation. *Morphic* and *amorphic* shapes abound in nature and some forms combine the basic geometric ones. The morphic apply to the overall shape of a living thing in which the basic shapes are difficult to find (i.e. leaf, etc.), and the amorphic to the overall shape of a non-living item (i.e. rock, etc.)

Children like to draw animals, but they become frustrated about the age of 9 or 10 when they think they need to make the animal look "real" in the sense of photographic realism. Teach them that **if the cat drawing can be recognized as a cat, then the representation is successful.** Photographic realism is admirable for demonstrating skill, but basically it is without expression or interpretation.

Many animals have variations of oval heads, rectangular or oval bodies, and tube legs. Animals are also identified by their coloring and patterns of fur, feathers, etc. A person generally has an egg-shaped head, trapezoid torso, rectangle pelvis, tube neck, arms, and legs, and ovals for hands and feet (See September Week#2 & 3). These, of course, are over-simplified, but are the basic shapes to begin a drawing.

How to draw books are valuable for two reasons:

1. To begin to recognize basic shapes in objects and living things, and
2. To let students practice on scratch paper if they have finished projects before others.

