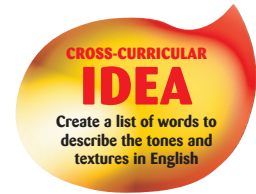


Shading Explorations



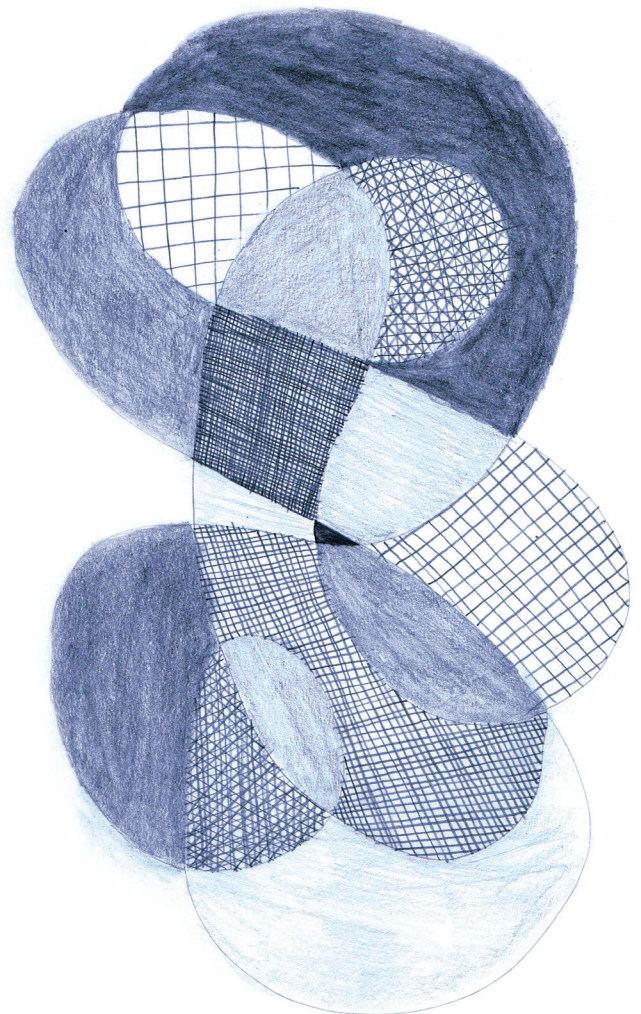
Discovering the many different ways a basic pencil can be used in drawing is very important. This activity focuses on using a pencil to produce different types of shading to use in future drawings.

Materials

- Sketchbook or A4 cartridge paper.
- Drawing pencil.
- Pencil sharpener.
- Fine-tipped black or coloured pen (extension activity).

Method

- On a clean sketchbook page or A4 paper take the pencil for a walk starting in the middle of the page and working outwards. Make sure all sections are closed.
- Show the children how to hold the pencil horizontally so that they can use the side of the pencil lead rather than the point. Model shading on paper using the pencil this way.
- Fill in one section on the page with shading using the side of the pencil.
- Talk about using different pressures on the pencil and how this can make different shades depending on the amount of pressure used.
- Ask the children to fill in some more sections on their page using different pressures to make lighter and darker shades.
- Introduce the children to hatching and cross-hatching and if possible show them some examples. Hatching is when parallel lines are used to create shading. The closer the lines, the darker the shading. Cross-hatching is when parallel lines are used at 90° to each other. Model this for the children.
- Ask the children to fill in further sections on their page with hatching and cross-hatching. Remind them that spacing between hatching lines will affect how dark or light the shading will be.
- Continue to fill in all the spaces on the page making sure a good variety of tones is achieved.



Taking it Further

Repeat the exercise using a fine-tipped black or coloured pen. Use a single colour and this time concentrate on hatching and cross-hatching. You could also introduce the children to using dots to create shading. The same principal applies in that the closer together the dots are, the darker the shading appears to be.