

Drawing: What Do You Feel?

By Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

12"x18" cartridge paper, 1 sheet per student
Graphite pencil 2B, 3B or 4B
Conte crayon (sanguine or bistre)
Faber-Castell brush-tip marker
Charcoal - pencil or stick
Stomp or tortillion
16 paper lunch bags filled with objects of different textures (see examples below*)
Stopwatch

Goal

In this intriguing project, students experience the working properties of various dry drawing materials while discovering how to draw what they cannot see. During the project the teacher should encourage mark-making, texture and tonal shading.

Preparation

Take 16 paper lunch bags. Number them #1 - #16 in bold marker then hide different kinds of objects inside. *Examples: marshmallow, toothpicks, feathers, bubble wrap, slice of bread, sponge, Q-tips, metal washers, pinecones, netting, ribbon, smooth pebbles, crinkled or shredded paper, chain, gift card, pennies, buttons, stuffed toys.

Procedure

1. Hand out the numbered bags to everyone. Students reach inside with their non-dominant hand to feel what is inside. Students cannot peek inside the bags; they must draw what they feel. The mystery items are revealed at the end of the lesson.
2. Ask students to fold a 12x18" piece of cartridge to create 16 boxes, and number the boxes 1 - 16 in small letters in the lower right-hand corner of each box (4 horizontal rows of 4 boxes each).
3. Each horizontal row will be filled using a different drawing tool, so let's remind ourselves by writing the following:
 - Row 1 **Graphite**
 - Row 2 **Conte**
 - Row 3 **Brush Marker**
 - Row 4 **Charcoal**
4. Distribute the bags one to each student. 'No Peeking!'



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5. The number on the bag prompts the student to draw on the assigned spot on the page. Remember to use the drawing tool that corresponds to the row.
6. Time allowed: 1 to 1.5 minutes for each bag.
7. 'Times up! Pass the bag along to your left.'
8. Repeat until all spots are filled.
9. Students hang their sketches.
10. Teacher reveals what's in each bag.
11. Discuss and share discoveries.



When the project is complete, the students will have a practical chart depicting the different drawing materials, and have experienced the working properties of each one.