Drawing with Our Senses: Touch

Drawing
In this lesson we will create drawings using our sense of touch.

- Paper to draw on
- Drawing tool (pencil, marker, crayon)
- Objects with different textures to draw
- A container to place your objects in (tote bag, plastic bag, paper bag)
- Optional: coloring materials (paint, markers, colored pencils)
Have you ever noticed the different ways objects feel?

Petting a soft, fluffy cat does not feel the same as touching a sharp, spiky cactus.

Can you think of objects that feel different from one another?

The way that an object feels is called its **texture**.

We use our **sense of touch** to feel different textures. There are five senses- touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. Our senses help us understand the world around us.
Artists use lines to show different textures. Let’s look at these two drawings by the artist Albrecht Dürer of a hare and a beetle.

What do you think the hare would feel like if you touched it? How do you think the beetle would feel?

What different lines did the artist use to show these textures?
A value scale can help us understand the tints (lights) and shades (darks) of a color.

In this value scale we also see different kinds of lines that look like textures.

Which lines would you use to draw something scaly, like a snake?

Which lines would you use to draw something furry, like a cat?

What other textures do these lines remind you of?
Let’s practice creating our own texture value scale using a sheet of paper and a drawing material like a pencil.

To begin, draw and label four long rectangles for:

1. Shade
2. Scribble
3. Hatch
4. Cross hatch

In each rectangle draw 5 vertical lines to create 6 squares. Each square represents the 6 values you will create.
Choose a square all the way to the left or right. Begin shading in your value scale by starting with the darkest value first.

To make a dark value, use a drawing material to press down hard creating even marks. Use the tip and sides of the drawing tool to fill in the square.

Move to the neighboring square. Fill in the square by pressing down a little lighter. Gradually fill in the remaining boxes.

What textures might you use shading to represent?
Scribble, Hatch and Cross-hatch

A **scribble** is a kind of mark where the lines drawn aren’t meant to represent something.

**Hatching** is a kind of mark using spaced parallel lines.

**Parallel lines** are lines which do not meet.

**Cross-hatching** is when parallel lines intersect, or cross each other.

Add scribbling, hatching and cross hatching to your value scale. Begin with a dark value. As you move from right to left, use less pressure and add space between your marks to make them lighter.
Take a look at your completed value scale.

What do you notice about the different textures and values?

What textures could each shade represent? Scribble? Hatch? Cross-hatch?
Take a moment to feel the different textures around you.

Here are a few examples of textures. What other textures can you think of?
Step 1

Choose some objects that have different textures and place them in a container.
Step 2

Without looking, only using your sense of touch, pick an object in your container.

Turn the object in your hand using your fingers to feel all the sides.

Does the object have smooth or jagged edges?

What is its texture (bumpy, fuzzy, rough, prickly, smooth)?

Is the object soft or hard?

Is the object light or heavy?
Step 3

Continue feeling the object (no peeking!) and begin to draw its texture.

Step 4

Once you have drawn your object, take it out of the container and place it to the side.

What do you notice about the object you’ve drawn?
Step 5

Choose a new object in your container and continue to add to your drawing.

Keep going until you have drawn all the objects in your container.

Step 6 (Optional)

Add color and/or value to your drawing using any coloring tools you have available.
Step 7

Share your drawing with a friend, caregiver or family member. Tell them about the different textures you felt while drawing.

Reflection

What objects did you choose for your touch drawing?

What were the different textures you felt? How did you draw them?

Did you enjoy drawing using your sense of touch? Why or why not?