



Lesson Objectives:

Club members and parents will:

- Introduce 4-H'ers to the Visual Arts 4-H Project.
- Learn a simple art technique.
- Practice drawing using this technique.

Time:

5-20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Items or pictures for things to draw

Preparations:

- Review Lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies

**Illinois
Extension**

4-H Club GO TO Resources



March 2021

Contour Drawing

Contour drawing is a simple way to introduce the art of drawing and there are many different ways to practice it. During this lesson you will introduce the concept and give the 4-H members the opportunity to practice drawing using this method. You will need to provide some simple objects or photos for the 4-H'ers to draw. Some examples would be a flower, bird, food, animal or insect. A few photos have been included in this lesson. When the youth are drawing encourage them that the idea is to not make perfect art, but to just use simple lines to recreate the object.

Begin by sharing some basic information about contour drawing:

- **Definition:** A contour drawing is an outline of a shape without any shading, texture, or tone. Contour drawings have very little detail and only consist of lines.
- It is one of the most basic types of drawing, many artists get their start using this method of drawing.
- Emphasis is on the outline shape of the subject, not the detail.
- When practicing, the artist focuses on the original object and not on the finished drawing.
- This exercise improves hand-eye coordination and teaches the hand to do what the brain tells it to.
- To continue practice, choose more difficult objects to draw and try other variations of contour drawing.

Exercise: Continuous Contour Drawing

Directions: Youth will look at an object or photo and draw it *without ever lifting their pencil*. It will be one continuous line. (Remind them to focus on the basic outline and not the details (like shading and color) and not to take the pencil off the paper..

Exercise: Blind Contour Drawing

Directions: Youth will look only at the object they are drawing, they will not look at the paper they are drawing on or the hand they are drawing with.

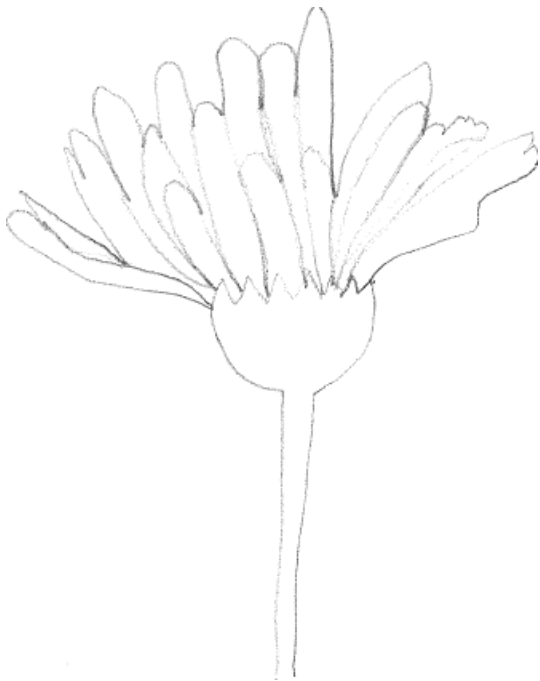
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

It may be helpful to show the 4-H'ers an example so that they will understand the concept. The goal remember, is not to perfectly recreate the photo and get in every detail, but rather to focus on the basic outline and size. Be sure to allow the 4-H'ers time to share their artwork.



Photo by [lanzu In](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Continues Contour Drawing



Blind Contour Drawing



Sample photos that you could have 4-H'ers draw.



Photo by [Johannes W](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Alistair Dent](#) on [Unsplash](#)

University of Illinois Extension — Unit 2 — Boone, DeKalb, Ogle Counties

Boone County Extension Office

205 Cadillac Court, Suite 3

Belvidere, IL 61008-1733

Phone: 815-544-3710

Program Coordinator: Melissa Irwin

Email: mmirwin@illinois.edu

Ogle County Extension Office

421 W Pines Rd, Ste 10

Oregon, IL 61061

Phone: 815-732-2191

Program Coordinator: Jodi Baumgartner

Email: jbmgtrnr@illinois.edu

DeKalb County Extension Office

1350 West Prairie Drive

Sycamore, IL 60178-3166

Phone: 815-758-8194

Program Coordinator: Nicole Groezinger

Email: groezing@illinois.edu

Unit 2 Educator: Johnna Jennings

Email: jbjennin@illinois.edu

Sources & Additional Lesson info:

4-H Club GO TO Resources is being offered to 4-H clubs in Boone, DeKalb and Ogle Counties as a way to enrich and enhance 4-H experiences and programming at the club level. It is the goal of the Extension staff to assist 4-H leaders and officers in providing simple hands-on activities on a monthly basis that can broaden the 4-H club experience and as a result heighten positive youth development.

Resources:

<https://adventureswithart.com/5-types-of-contour-drawing/>

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/contour-line-art>

<https://unsplash.com/>

Prepared by: Melissa Irwin, Boone County 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.