

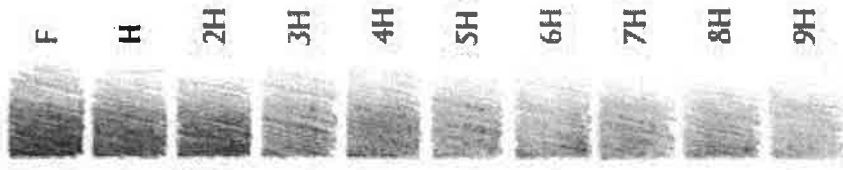
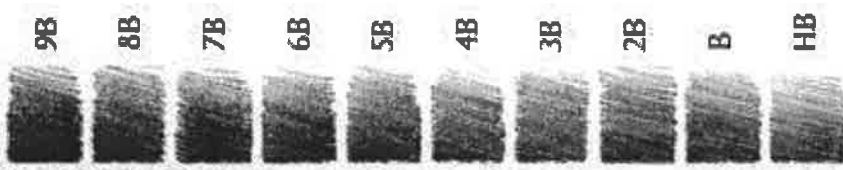
# Graphite Pencils

Put the advantages of hard and soft pencils to work to create your drawings.

## The Pencil Hardness Numbering System

The graphite pencil hardness scale is often shown on the pencil itself. This scale utilizes letters and numbers. The letter B shows the level of darkness of a pencil. B pencils are soft. The higher the number on the B pencil, the darker the mark.

The letter H on a pencil shows the hardness of the pencil. The higher the number, the harder the pencil and the lighter the mark. HB is the pencil most often used because it is in the middle of the range and works well for lightly sketching in a composition. When greater line variation is needed, use a B pencil, which will produce a good line without needing to press too hard. Select a softer pencil, such as a 2B through 6B for large, expressive drawings.

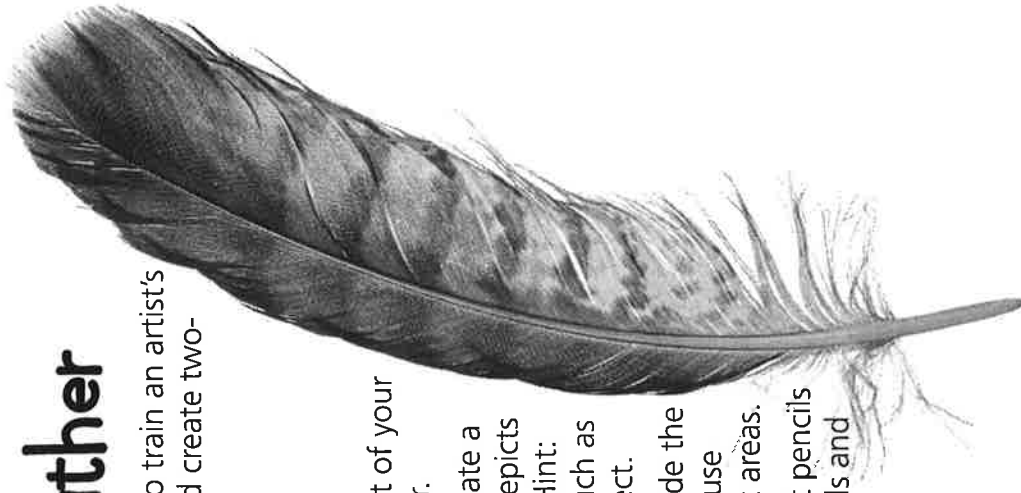


# Using Graphite Pencils to Draw a Feather

Graphite pencil drawing helps to train an artist's eye to see light and shadow and create two-dimensional forms.

## Follow these steps:

1. Determine the size and layout of your feather drawing on the paper.
2. Use a light pencil mark to create a basic contour drawing that depicts all the edges of the feather. Hint: use a medium-hard pencil, such as a 3H for this part of the project.
3. Use the softest pencils to shade the darkest areas of the feather; use harder pencils for the lightest areas.
4. Use a variety of hard and soft pencils to draw in the feather's details and textures.



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