



# Viewfinder Drawing

## Artform/ type of activity

- Drawing
- Observing

## Objectives/ outcomes

- To develop confidence in drawing as a way of recording visual information
- To gain better understanding of the natural environment through close observation
- To develop research and fieldwork skills
- To better understand scale and distance

## Materials required

- Card viewfinders - to be prepared before trip
- Clipboards - one per participant
- Cartridge or copy paper
- Range of graphite pencils: HB – 8B
- Colour pencils
- Sharpeners

## Space requirements

- This activity is best done outside in the natural space, weather permitting. Outdoor classrooms and hides can be suitable, given good viewing areas and sufficient space.

## Curricular links

- Links to Art and Design through: use of observational skills and conveying visual information
- Links to Science through: discovery and identification of habitats and wildlife
- Links to Geography through: development of field skills and identification of the characteristics of specific areas





## Activity instructions

- (Prior to workshop): viewfinders are to be made by cutting a small square or rectangular window out of a piece of stiff card, leaving a 'picture frame'. Sizes can be approximately A5 and/or A6. You will need at least one viewfinder per participant.
- Artist/ Teacher/ Leader demonstrates use of viewfinder to encourage looking/ observation (possibly alongside use of binoculars/ camera/ magnifying glasses etc).
- A/T/L shows how viewfinder can be used to look at things close up and/or far away; explore and discuss the differences in what you see.
- Discuss different pencils eg HB and 6B – encourage participants to think about matching drawing materials to subject, eg soft pencils for misty distance, harder pencils for close up sharp edges.
- Participants are given clipboards, paper, pencils.
- What to look for? Where to look? What to draw? How to draw?
- A/T/L encourages participants to use the edges of the viewfinder window as the edges of a whole sheet of drawing paper, and also to draw squares/ rectangles for smaller pictures on other sheets of paper – exploring scale and composition. Can you hold the viewfinder up and frame part of the skyline – draw the distant view. Can you lay it on the ground to frame a leaf – draw one leaf.
- A/T/L encourages participants to develop their own approaches to drawing when recording visual information.
- A/T/L asks questions to develop observation skills: which areas are lighter/ darker? Which details are sharp and which are blurred? Is the surface rough or smooth? Is there a contrast in scale?
- Participants can be challenged to produce a number of varied drawings within the time given.

