

Handcrafted in the USA Since 1889

# GENERAL PENCIL COMPANY

## Project Ideas & Reference Guide for Art Educators



*Art feeds the soul, stimulates the mind, and alerts the senses*

*In a perfect world, all students would love art and be adept in it. Until that day arrives, keep reaching out to those who are frustrated, find creative ways to teach them, show your passion, and inspire them.*

### 20 Classroom Project Ideas

- 1- Twist on pointillism: use subject matter word or words that describe subject matter to create object instead of dots.
- 2- Theme Art: Example: "Emotion" Possible topics to choose from could be respect, friendship, tolerance, acceptance, patience, kindness, compassion, equality, empathy, belonging, change, etc. Example: Draw a design with shoes, feet, etc. The theme behind this symbolism is "walk a mile in my shoes" which communicates tolerance and acceptance.
- 3- A day in the life of a \_\_\_\_\_. Project example: Artist. Discuss with students vocation options for an artist (painter, graphic, interior design, teacher, illustrator, etc) have them pick one that interests them, research facts and examples of work, then create a design representative of that art form.
- 4- We are family classroom quilt: Each student creates a square design and when all are assembled together on a wall it becomes a quilt. Fun example for little ones with a life lesson attached to it: have them trace their hand as part of their design and when all the hands turn into a quilt you can say "see, many hands make work light" or "when you lend a helping hand even the largest task becomes easy".
- 5- MultiCultural theme art: Incorporate maps, countries and or heritage in art project.
- 6- Nature Rubbings in pastel to represent autumn leaves.
- 7- Mandala: Symbolism drawing where the entire design is consecutive so it creates a circle.
- 8- Multi media ideas: rice paper/watercolor pencil/pastel accent or charcoal/graphite/ink or acrylic/watercolor pencil/ stamping or tea stained paper/photo's/written text.
- 9- Create a design from shapes, drawn or cut out. Example: peacock. The nose -triangle, neck- rectangle, head- small circle, body-larger circle, legs, rectangles, feathers- connecting small circles.
- 10- Draw, cut, make a puzzle art.
- 11- Fun Facts Art: Create a design and incorporate written text about subject matter within the design.
- 12- Design a mat or picture frame and have students put a picture of them in it as a gift.
- 13- Dimensional art: Create wild designs on paper, cut out flower shapes and assemble.
- 14- Create an "All about me" book
- 15- Decorate a postcard and send to a loved one, friend, servicemen abroad, etc.
- 16- Paper weave design
- 17- Create a color wheel design. Example: A wreath of flowers where the flower colors are those of a color wheel in the correct order.
- 18- Object art: Create a drum, mask, holiday placemats, boomerang, kite, ornament, etc.
- 19- Mood reflection art: Discuss high key, low key and black & white color options.
- 20- Fractured art: Have students bring in magazine art, cut it in half, mount one half on paper, and have students draw the other half to complete the design again.

**Project- Apple A Day:** This exercise shows students multiple options for executing an apple in several mediums and drawing styles. A great way to loosen them up to try drawing styles not previously explored. Everything you need to do this project can be found in your SketchMate® Classroom Art Pack™ (#49-CAP).



Quick Linear Sketch



Loose Value Sketch



Traditional Linear and Value Sketch



Bold Outline and Partial Value Sketch (Old Masters Style)



Bold Exaggerated Sketch



Bold Statement Using Simple Lines



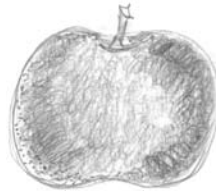
Relaxed Edges



Exaggerated Value Contour



Exaggerated Value Study



Circular Strokes and Pointilism Values



Blocked in Contour Lines



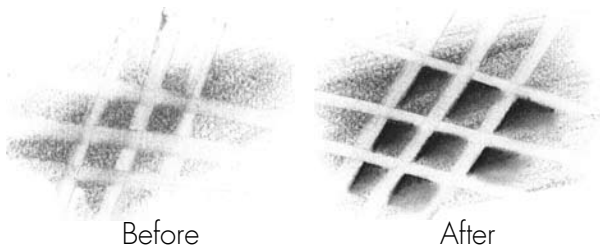
Loose Linear Contour Lines

**Helpful Tip:** Charcoal clean up is a breeze when you use "The Masters"® Hand Soap. It gently removes charcoal residue from the hands without harsh chemicals. "The Masters"® Hand Soap also removes paint, inks, grease, and clay effortlessly and effectively.



**Unique Trick:** If you dampen the tip of a Charcoal White® Pencil (#558) with water before you draw with it you will get a bright opaque white on your paper. This creates a wonderful final highlight when working in a light area, it adds sparkle to transparent glass, is great for reflective light in eyes, etc. Another approach is to dampen the paper not the pencil tip.

**Fun Challenge:** Primo® Euro Blend Charcoal Pencils have a unique, creamy, rich formula that can be used alone or in combination with other charcoal, pastel, or mixed media. Have your students create a design using a Primo® Euro Blend Charcoal Pencil, **GENERAL'S**® "The Original" Charcoal, and **GENERAL'S**® Carbon Sketch™ pencil, they will see black comes in many shades and the subtle contrasts that make an appealing finished design.



Before

After

**Technique Tip:** To add depth in an area you have lifted out partial color, place additional darks in smaller sections within the area and blend.

Looking for individual art kits for your students? Try **GENERAL'S**® Drawing Class Essential Tools #1-Kit, which contains 13 mixed media drawing tools.



### Fun Facts:

- 1- The first wooden pencil dates back to the mid-1500's. It was a thin rod of wood with a bit of graphite stuck into one end. In the late 1600's the pencil making process we still use today was first developed.
- 2- Bread crumbs were used as erasers until 1770 when the first rubber eraser was made. In 1885, erasers were attached to the ends of pencils for the first time.



- 3- There is actually no lead in writing pencils used today. The lead core is a mixture of graphite and clay. How hard or soft the lead is determined by the amount of clay and graphite.

- 4- The average pencil can draw a line 35 miles long or write about 45,000 words.

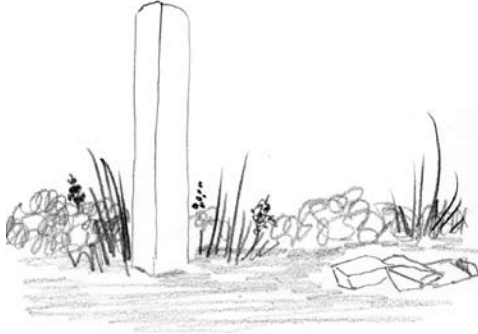
- 5- Show your students how a pencil is made, step-by-step, with **GENERAL'S**® How a Pencil is Made Kit

# Kimberly® Graphite

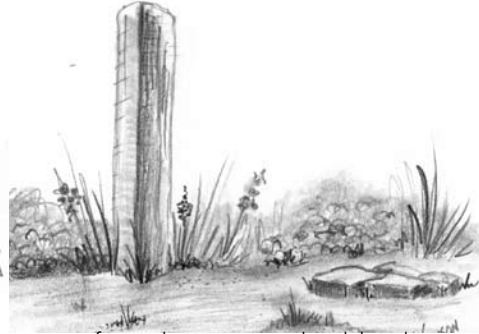
Teaching art can be very challenging. How creative we are in our approach can make a difference in the end results of our students finished work and also their work ethic. A common stumbling block for students is not having the ability to envision conception through completion steps for their work. They either rush the process or omit necessary steps. Classroom visuals omit this problem and make drawing easy as 1-2-3.



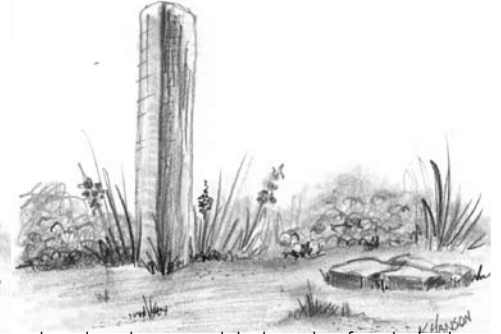
**Challenge:** Once students have mastered this mini sketch have them incorporate it in a larger sketch as one of many elements of the design.



Rough outline of design elements



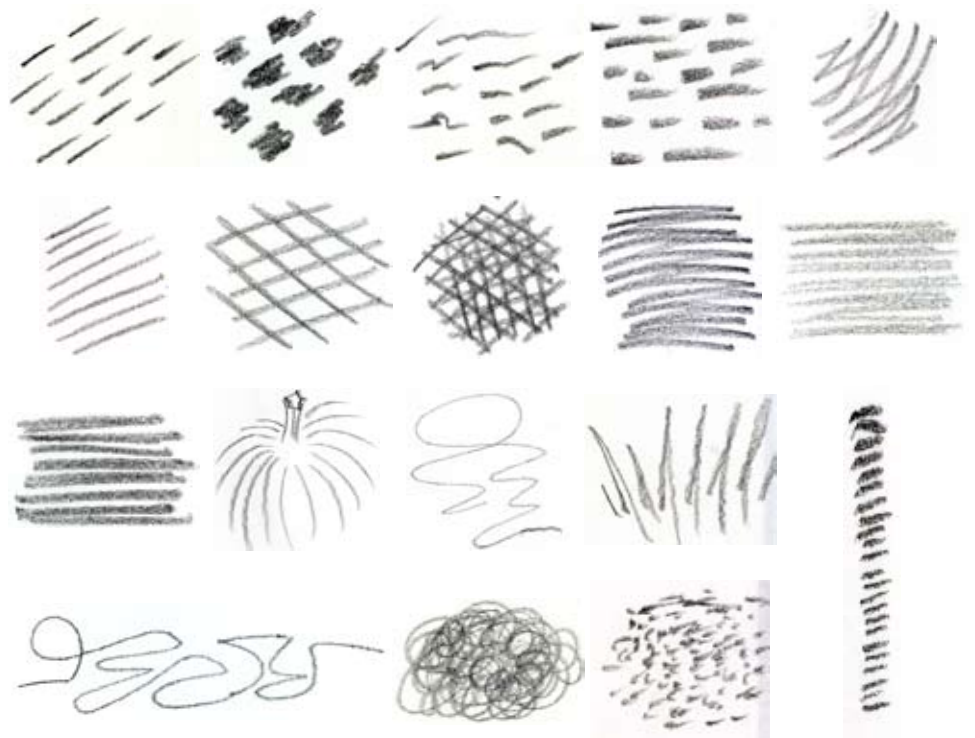
Define elements and add value placements



Blend values, add details, final darks, and highlights

525-9xB	525-8B	525-7B	525-6B	525-5B	525-4B	525-3B	525-2B	525-B	525-HB
525-F	525-H	525-2H	525-3H	525-4H	525-5H	525-6H	525-7H	525-8H	525-9H

**Pencil Ratings:** Many students do not have a clear understanding of pencil degree options. A visual chart of B, F, and H markings can be very helpful and informative. KIMBERLY® premium graphite drawing pencils are available in a range of 20 degrees.



**Project Idea:** Many students do not have a clear understanding of pencil stroke options for their work. **"Let Your Lines Do The Talking"** is a great exercise and visual for students to try. Have students recreate these linear strokes and then talk about what they interpreted each one to represent or express (soft, hard, rough, smooth, happy, sad, hot, cold, calm, etc). Take it one step further and ask them what stroke they would use to add texture to a tree, dimension within a grove of trees, shadow on the side of a building, movement to a body of water, a fuzzy texture to a peach, etc.

**Helpful Tip:** General Pencil makes a wide variety of high quality graphite products. Incorporating powder, chunk, or sticks with your pencils will create exciting visual drawings.

# General's® Charcoal



**Helpful Hint:** Charcoal renderings are bold and beautiful. The intense black can create intense to subtle contrasts depending on how you manipulate it. To prevent smearing as you work with this medium start at the top of the paper and work your way down the design. If you have to go back and rework part of the design, lay a piece of tissue or transfer paper over the rest of the drawing before laying your hand down on the paper.

**Unique Trick:** Spray fixatives are not necessary to set charcoal drawings. Have your students burnish their work. This technique is fun, easy, and only requires a metal tablespoon and a piece of tissue paper. Lay the tissue over the art, hold it taut and gently yet firmly rub the spoon over the art in the direction of the design. The pressure the spoon exerts will push the pigment particles into the paper and any excess charcoal will be absorbed into the tissue.

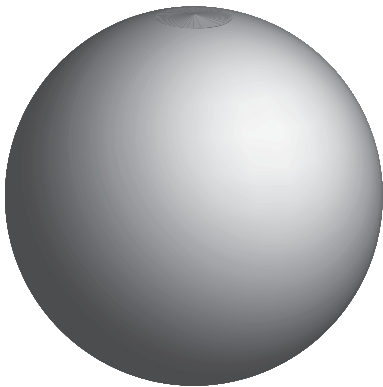
**Project Idea:** Veteran artists know having a well thought out plan helps ensure a successful charcoal rendering. Some issues that need to be thought out in advance are:

- 1- Will I be utilizing both positive and negative space within the design?
- 2- What values will be needed in each shape to achieve correct form?
- 3- Do I plan to have a light source?
- 4- Do I have a clear understanding of how to draw each element correctly?

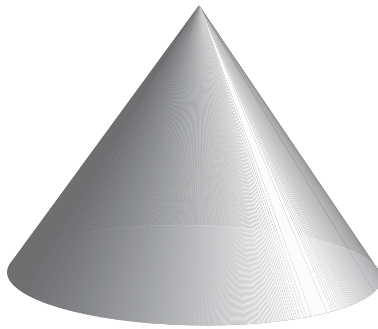
Here is an easy exercise that utilizes positive/negative space, value placement, light source plus eraser lift out techniques. For the lift out technique I used the Facticis® Magic Black (#GBS-18) eraser.



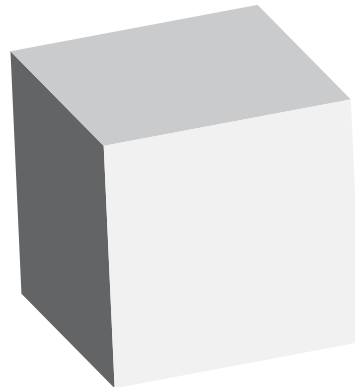
To address the problem of drawing an object correctly, try teaching your students to "really" see the basic shape or shapes in an object. Hold up an object (lets pretend it is a peach with a stem on it that has a leaf) and break down the parts as if you were drawing it.. The peach would start out a sphere/circle, the stem a cylinder and the leaf's shape is a triangle. Repeat this process using several different objects. Once students have grasped the concept, have them draw individual objects that represent the four basic shapes.



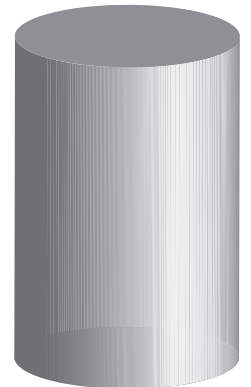
Circle/Sphere



Triangle/Cone



Square/Cube



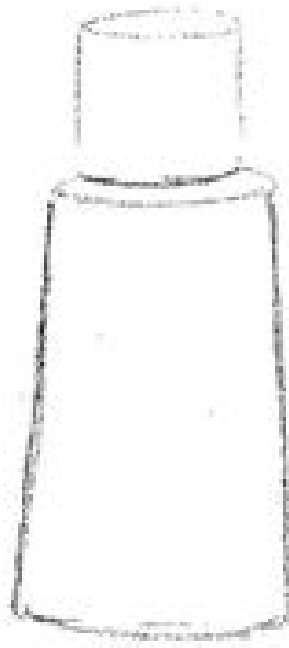
Rectangle/Cylinder



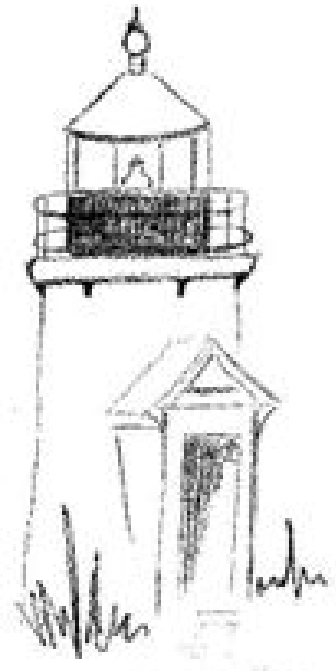
Once comfortable with shapes, challenge students to create this lighthouse that combines several shapes within the main shape.



Step 1



Step 2

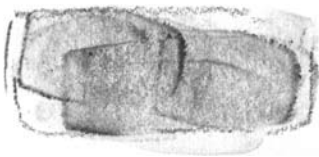
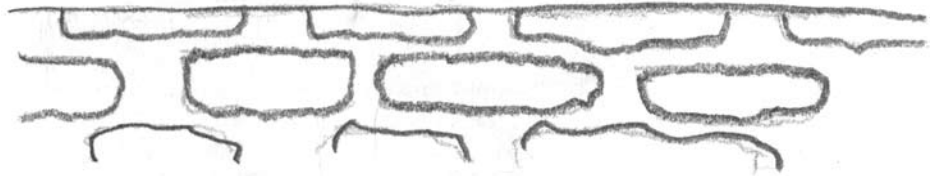


Step 3

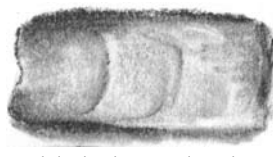


To challenge them further, have them create a loose landscape using the basic shapes to create the main elements in the design.

**Eraser Stamping Technique:** You know how great the ES-20 erases on paper, now try using it as a stamp. Cut eraser to desired shape (optional), tap it into a pile of ground up or powdered charcoal and then pounce the eraser on your paper to create the shape. It also works well to create texture within an object or as a muted soft background design. These easy bricks are a great example of stamping to add texture to an object.



Stamp



Add darks and values



Grate on texture

**Pencil Technique:** **GENERAL'S® CARBON SKETCH™** pencil is smooth like graphite but bold and black like charcoal. If you run a damp brush over **CARBON SKETCH™** lines, some of the pigment will dissolve and move easily across the paper to create additional tonal values.



## MultiPastel® Chalk Pencils

**GENERAL'S®** MultiPastel® Chalk Pencils are handcrafted in the USA using General's smooth, pigment rich formula. They are acid free, oil free, artist quality, archival safe and very blendable. The pencil tip is ideal for adding fine lines pack) and details in drawings.

**Project:** Working in pastel is exciting. Pastel drawing can be approached several ways with each technique producing a slightly different look. Have students draw a linear apple, a blocked in color apple and then combine both techniques and create an atmospheric apple.



Linear



Blocking



Atmospheric



Broken Color



Blended Color

Explain to students color can be applied and left in its natural state (broken color) or blended for a softer look.

**Blending Tools:** Most people tend to use their finger or a tortillion to blend pastels. These additional items are easy to find, work well, and each produces a slightly different look. Have students try blending swatches of pastels using a tortillion, finger, plastic eraser, cotton ball, cotton swab, mop brush, make-up sponge, tissue, cheesecloth, or chamois.

Once students have a sound understanding of drawing styles and blending techniques have them create a linear design, a blocked color design, and one that uses blended color.



**Grating Technique:** A quick way to place color over a large surface area is to take a pastel pencil, run the tip over a sanding paddle, let the pigment particles fall onto the paper and then blend the particles across the entire paper with your hand or a cotton ball. The grated color will be the same as the pencil color. For a softer hue or value of that same color create the grated color on a separate sheet of paper, load a cotton ball, make-up sponge, or brush with color and transfer the color to your actual drawing.



**Unique Tricks:** Take a glue stick, draw a patterned design on paper with it and let the glue dry. Grate pastel pigment onto the paper and then spread the pigment across the entire paper with a cotton ball to create a fun colorful background design.





Another fun project is to take a bottle of glue, draw a loose flower design on paper with the glue tip, let dry then rub grated pastel color over the entire paper.

Texture Rubbings are fun for all age students to do. Challenge older students to incorporate one as part of a whole design.

Lift out technique when working in pastels creates additional interest in their finished product. Use the #ES-20 or Magic Black eraser (#GBS-18) to lift the unwanted color off the paper. Lift out partial color in area to create a background design. Lift out color to create an object (birch tree).



Coins



Cardbord



Brick Wall



Concrete



Cardboard 2 Ways



Eraser Lift Out

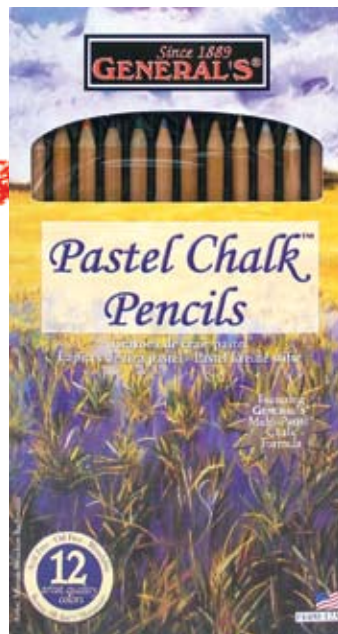


Eraser Lift Out - Birch Tree

**Helpful Tip:** Pastel art containing several layers of pastel requires a spray fixative but thin layers of color can be set by burnishing them.

**Helpful Tip:** Extend the life of your pencil and keep the sharp factory point by sharpening your pastel chalk pencils using a **GENERAL'S®** Little-Red All Art® stainless steel blade sharpener (#S-650 or #S-415).

Try these other great **GENERAL'S®** MultiPastel® products



# Kimberly® Watercolor Pencils



**KIMBERLY®** Watercolor Pencils are rich, full bodied, watercolor pigmented pencils. Use them alone to create breathtaking designs or combine them with pan or tube watercolors, pastels, inks, or collage work.

**Techniques:** These pencils are capable of creating several different looks as opposed to traditional watercolors which are applied with brush strokes only.



## Draw and Wet Paper Technique

Draw directly on the paper and then run a damp brush over the color lines.

Hint: The more layers of color you lay down the darker the color will be.

Hint: When blending multiple colors, work light to dark



## Create a Palette Technique

Draw color on a sheet of paper, activate the color swatch with a damp brush and then transfer the paint via brush onto a painting.

Hint: For a light value of color use more water, for bold color use less water.



## Draw on Wet Paper Technique

Draw with pencil tip on wet paper for rich, dark color or color lines.

Hint: For subtle lines, apply pencil tip to dry paper



## Soaked Pencil Tip Technique

For bold thick lines soak the pencil tip in water before drawing with it.



## Grated Tip Technique

Run a sanding block across the tip of the pencil and let the pigment particles land on the paper. Particles will adhere to wet surface only.

**Project:** Have students re create this simple landscape project. It is a great example of how to combine several techniques for subtle changes within a painting.



Challenge older students with this landscape.



### Unique Tricks:



#### Sprayed Lace

Break off a pencil tip, put it in a spray bottle and let it dissolve. Lay a piece of lace or paper doily on paper, spray dissolved pigment in the open areas of the lace and then lift off.

Hint: For soft subtle lace, spray actual lace and then stamp it on paper.



#### Stained Glass

On a separate sheet of paper, create a palette of Pink, Blue and Purple. Wet entire surface of project paper and then stroke all three colors randomly across the paper until entire paper is covered with color. While paint is still wet, lay a piece of saran wrap over the paper and squish it down. Leave on paper till paint is dry and then lift saran wrap off.



#### Faux Marble

Create a palette of Terra Cotta, Brown and Yellow Ochre. Wet project paper and then stroke Yellow Ochre in several areas (using a horizontal sweeping motion). Next stroke Terra Cotta on the paper in several spots and then stroke Brown in the remaining areas. While the paint is still wet, take the Terra Cotta pencil and lightly drag it across the paper in a few spots to create the soft vein lines in the marble and then grate Brown in a few areas. Some of the grated pigment I left as is, other areas I lightly blended with a mop brush.

**Project Hint:** All of these fun technique papers could be turned into greeting cards, envelopes, gift bags or tags, cut up for collage, turned into a mat for artwork etc.

**Fun Resist Ideas:** Try a clear wax crayon, glue stick, bottle glue or batik wax as the masking agent in a design. (Design markings will be much looser and less precise.)

### Helpful Hints:

- Forget cleaning pan colors ever again. Have students create an entire palette of colors with their watercolor pencils and work off of it instead.
- Use a **KIMBERLY**® graphite pencil to sketch design prior to watercolor pencil painting not a watercolor pencil.
- Remember to sharpen your watercolor pencils with a **GENERAL'S**® Little Red™ All-Art® steel blade sharpener.
- Preserve delicate watercolor paper surface by using an ES-20 extra soft white vinyl eraser to remove unwanted design lines.



# Sketch & Wash® Water Soluble Graphite



**Project Idea:** **SKETCH & WASH®** pencils are a versatile and unique water soluble graphite pencil capable of creating dramatic washes of grey and black. You can use **SKETCH & WASH®** to create beautiful line and wash drawings or as an all-surface graphite pencil. Great for all level students and is compatible with all mediums. It's the perfect tool for value studies and water medium exercises. This tree is a perfect example of how easy it is to work with the **SKETCH & WASH®** pencil. Just draw, wet, dry, and add add details.



## Techniques:

- For bold dark color, run a damp brush over the area quickly and lift off.
- To create softer tonal values, leave more water in the brush and stroke over the area several times to dilute the graphite to desired value. If you want dark lines that are crisp and visible just draw directly on the damp paper with the pencil tip
- To make a rigid line of color softly fade out, lay a wet brush down on your paper an inch out from the line, stroke the brush towards and then into the edge of color for a second, then lift it off the paper. The water in the paper will diffuse and dilute the color as it travels across the damp paper.

**Helpful Hint:** Once a water wash has been laid over the graphite lines they will become semi permanent, so any erasing you want to do should be done prior to wetting. Because there is minimal lift after wetting, any color applied over these lines will stay fresh and crisp.

**Fun Fact:** An easy way to properly load a brush with water is to dip the brush in water and look at the shine on the hairs. Lay the side of the brush down on a paper towel and the second the shine leaves the hairs lift it off the paper towel. Your brush is now 50 % loaded with water and will guide the pigment, not dilute it, or shove it all in one direction.

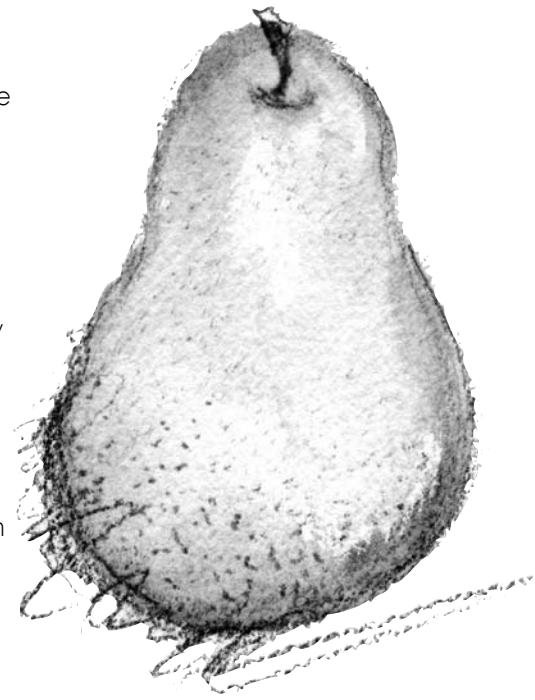
**Unique Trick:** Need to create more texture or additional interest in an area of your design? Try this: Wet the area of the paper with water, take a sanding block and run it across the tip of the **SKETCH & WASH®** pencil and let the particles drop onto the wet paper. Once the paper dries the particles are permanently attached to the paper.

**Fun Challenge:** Here's another quick project your students can try that will give them additional brush/water control practice. Creating and controlling the three values within the pear will be more of a challenge than what they experienced with the tree and a perfect opening to discuss the importance of knowing your grey scale.

### Helpful Hint:

- The more layers of graphite laid down in an area prior to wetting, the darker the color will be.
- To remove unwanted color in an area, remove moisture from the brush then lay it down in that area for a second. The brush will wick up the excess moisture/color in that area and then they can proceed with a controlled blend.

**Fun Challenge:** After pear is finished and paper has dried, have students apply a color wash over it using a **KIMBERLY®** watercolor pencil. The different grey tones in the under painting alter the color within the pear.



**Helpful Tip:** How you clean your brushes after painting will determine the life expectancy of the brush. You want to make sure you use a cleaning product that is strong enough to get the paint out but not harm the brush hairs. "The Masters"® Brush Cleaner removes paint with ease and conditions the brush hairs in the process. Even dried oil paints can be removed using "The Masters"® Brush Cleaner. Dip the brush in water, cover the brush hairs with cleaner, let them sit for a minute and then rinse. Repeat process to get inner hairs thoroughly cleaned as well. A well cared for brush will perform better and last longer.



**Additional Tools:** Sharpen your pencil with **GENERAL'S®** Little-Red All Art® sharpener and always use a Facticis® Extra Soft White Vinyl Eraser (#ES-20) when working on watercolor paper so you do not disturb the fibers in the paper. It is the ultimate soft, non-abrasive eraser that effortlessly removes unwanted lines while preserving the natural state of any delicate paper.

### Eraser Facts:

**GENERAL'S®** makes a wide assortment of quality erasers to meet all your artist needs.

- Kneaded erasers lift color, blend, and highlight charcoal, pastel, and graphite.
- Facticis® ES-20, A1-20, and GBS-18 Magic Black are extra soft vinyl erasers that are non-abrasive and ideal for delicate papers, charcoal and pastel work.
- Facticis® Plastic erasers are most commonly used to remove graphite markings. They can also be carved to make custom stamps.
- Gum erasers are a traditional non-abrasive eraser for graphite and smudge marks.
- **GENERAL'S®** Tri Tip T-24, Facticis® S-20, Facticis® OV-12, and Facticis® OV6 erasers are soft and ideal for erasing charcoal, graphite, and pastel.
- Facticis® TK-20 Technik is a clear plastic eraser that erases MultiChrome® colored pencils, and when moistened will erase India ink from polyester film. It works best on vellum, tracing, and drafting paper.

