



LESSON 1 LEVEL C PORTRAITS



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

drawing a detailed, close-up self-portrait and adding the surrounding design of a postage stamp.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

white paper; pencil; fine-line felt or ballpoint pen; a mirror. Optional: photocopy machine.

"TIPS":

Use your pencil only briefly. to sketch your features lightly on paper no larger than 4"x6". Complete your drawing with the fine line pen.

PUT YOURSELF ON A STAMP A Self-Portrait

GETTING STARTED: What famous faces have you seen on paper money or on postage stamps? Add your portrait to those historic people.

1. Examine some portrait stamps.
2. Study your face in a mirror. Notice that your eyes are halfway between your chin and the top of your head. Where are your eyes in relation to your eyebrows? Your ears? How wide is your mouth? Turn your head to get a three-quarter view.
3. On white paper about 4"x5", begin by drawing one eye and then the eyebrow above it. Continue with your nose and then the other eye. Now do your mouth and chin. Sketch the shape of your hair and check to see that you've made enough room for your brain!
4. Notice how your neck joins your head to your shoulders and draw the collar of your shirt. Use your pencil or pen to show the way your hair grows.
5. Make short, overlapping, light strokes to shade your features. Draw the pattern of your shirt or invent a costume.





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6. Enclose your self-portrait in a rectangle (or an oval inside a rectangle.) Add the cost of the stamp and the perforated edge. What other printing should be included?

7. If you have access to a photocopy machine, make several successive copies at the "reduce" setting until your drawing resembles a real postage stamp.

CLEAN-UP: Return your materials to storage.

TALK ABOUT IT: What was the hardest feature to draw? Why? If you were to make another portrait stamp, what would you change?

MORE IDEAS: Study the design and drawing of some official stamps with a magnifying glass. Examine a dollar bill or other currency and draw a self-portrait for your own design of some "play money."

CONNECTIONS: The first postage stamp was introduced in Great Britain in 1840. Can you find out what it looked like and what it was worth? When was the first postage stamp in the United States made? It was a portrait stamp. Whose picture was on it?

People collect postage stamps. Some of them are VERY valuable. What makes them worth more money? What is the rarest stamp worth?