

# ART IN THE PARK GUIDE

## SKETCHING ANIMALS



Grab your sketchbook and drawing supplies or whatever materials you have at home and get outside! Use your powers of observation to look closely at the animals and insects in the park or in your own backyard then try capturing them on your paper!

### Seeing Like an Artist

Artists have keen observational skills and are great at watching and waiting to capture just the right moment. Most animals move quickly and are unpredictable subjects, so artists need to be ready to sketch quickly at any moment. Be prepared to notice and capture what you see quickly. You can always add more color, detail, etc. later using your memory, imagination, or by looking at digital pictures.

### Consider the following:

- **Gesture** - You may not have the time for a detailed drawing, but you can capture the general movement of your subject.
- **Form** - What's the general shape of your subject and can it be broken down into multiple smaller shapes to make sketching simpler? For example, a squirrel could be represented with a large oval for the body, a triangle for the head, and smaller shapes for the feet. The tail could be a teardrop shape.
- **Expression** - What does your subject's face look like or how does their body or stance communicate a mood. For example, a droopy head on a horse might project a sleepy or calm feeling.
- **Detail** - Sometimes you can get close enough to notice things like hair, eye structure, whiskers, or feet. Adding these details will make your sketch even more informative. You can also "zoom in" on your subject and only sketch a detail like an eye for example.
- **Environment** - You may want to add environmental details to your sketch to add more information. Is your subject eating or resting on a branch?
- **Broadening your perspective** - Remember you are part of the animal kingdom and so are the other people you see around you! Check out this website featuring Jerry Pinkney, one of our favorite illustrators. Pinkney's animal drawings are filled with movement, detail, and character.  
<https://www.jerrypinkneystudio.com/>