



Real Drawing for Kids 2

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/124-Real-Drawing-for-Kids-2>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, I invite you to explore the joy of drawing with the children in your life through a step-by-step workshop designed by the talented Graham Braddock. As we embark on this artistic journey, we'll start by drawing a small square in the middle of your page. This simple step is crucial as it helps us find the center point for our drawing. By adding a light vertical line through the middle of the square, we establish the vertical alignment, and a light horizontal line provides the horizontal guide. These lines intersect at a small mark, which becomes the center of our subject, whether it's a playful kitten or another delightful figure. This approach not only aids in positioning the subject accurately but also builds a strong foundation for the entire drawing. I believe that by mastering these fundamentals, you'll unlock a rewarding creative process that brings immense satisfaction and joy, both for you and the young artists you inspire.



"Real Drawing for Kids 2" by Richard Robinson.

REAL DRAWING for Kids! 2



REFERENCE PHOTO 1

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 2

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 3

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 4

The scene as Richard found it.

Materials

Gather these materials before you start. If you don't have the exact same supplies, use what you have and substitute freely.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- HB Pencil
- 6B Pencil
- A4 Paper (US Letter)

1 Setting up the drawing area



Mark the Center of the Page

Draw a small square in the middle of your page. This will help you find the center point for your drawing.

Divide the Page Vertically

Draw a light vertical line through the middle of the square. This line will guide the vertical alignment of your drawing.

Divide the Page Horizontally

Draw a light horizontal line through the middle of the square. This line will guide the horizontal alignment of your drawing.

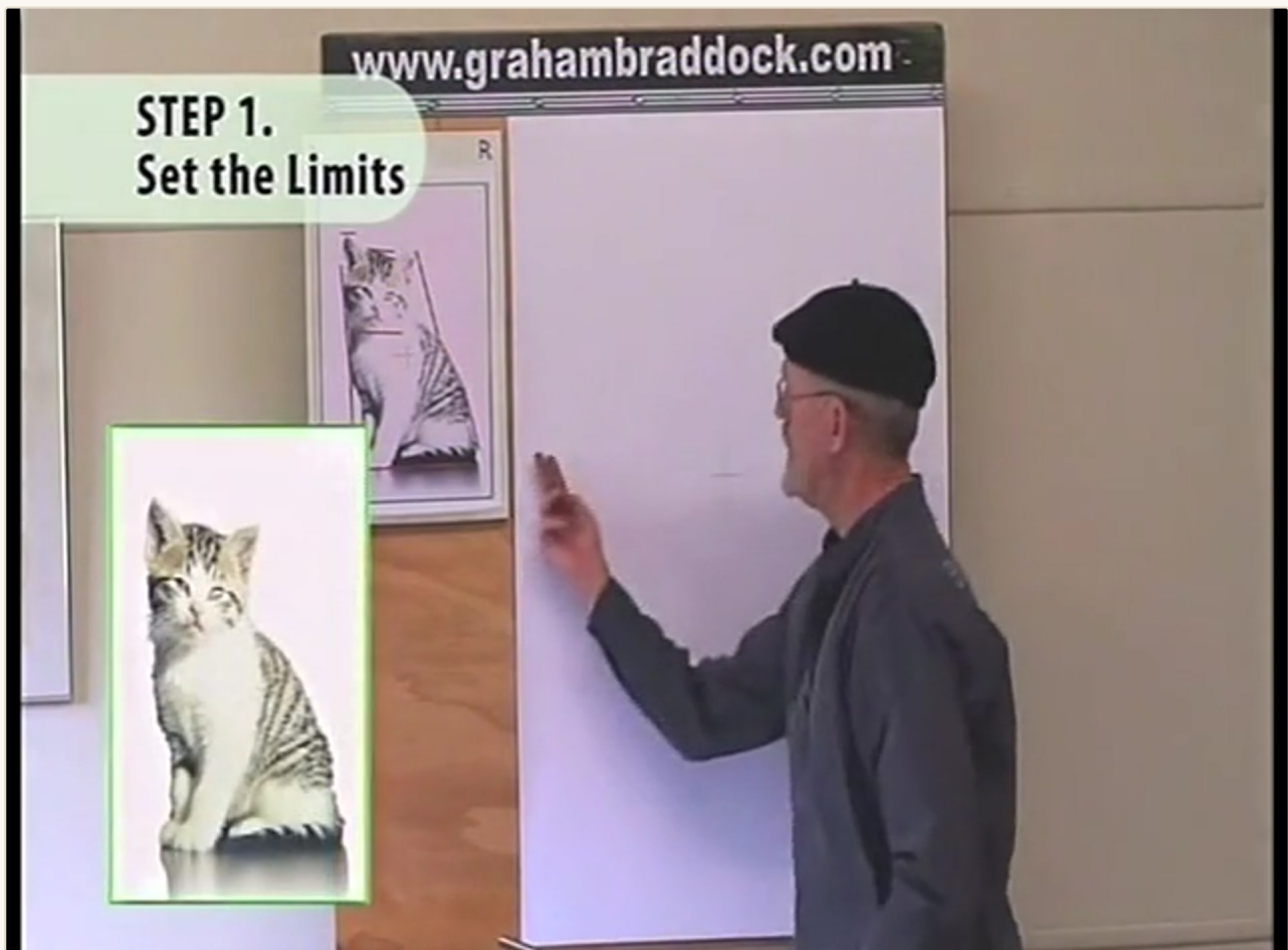
Identify the Center of Your Subject

Make a small mark at the intersection of the vertical and horizontal lines. This mark represents the center of your subject, such as a kitten, and helps in positioning it accurately on the page.

PRO TIP

Use light lines to divide the page, making it easier to adjust your drawing later.

2 Determining the orientation and size



Determine Kitten's Position

Position the kitten about two to three fingers in from the top of your page. Ensure it's a bit more than one finger in from the bottom.

Set the Bottom Margin

Measure approximately three fingers up from the bottom of your page to set the lower boundary for the kitten's position.

Set the Top Margin

Measure about three fingers down from the top of your page to establish the highest point for the kitten.

Choose Paper Orientation

Use a portrait orientation for your paper, as the kitten is taller vertically than horizontally.

PRO TIP

Use your fingers as a guide to measure and position elements on the page.

3 Drawing the kitten's body shape



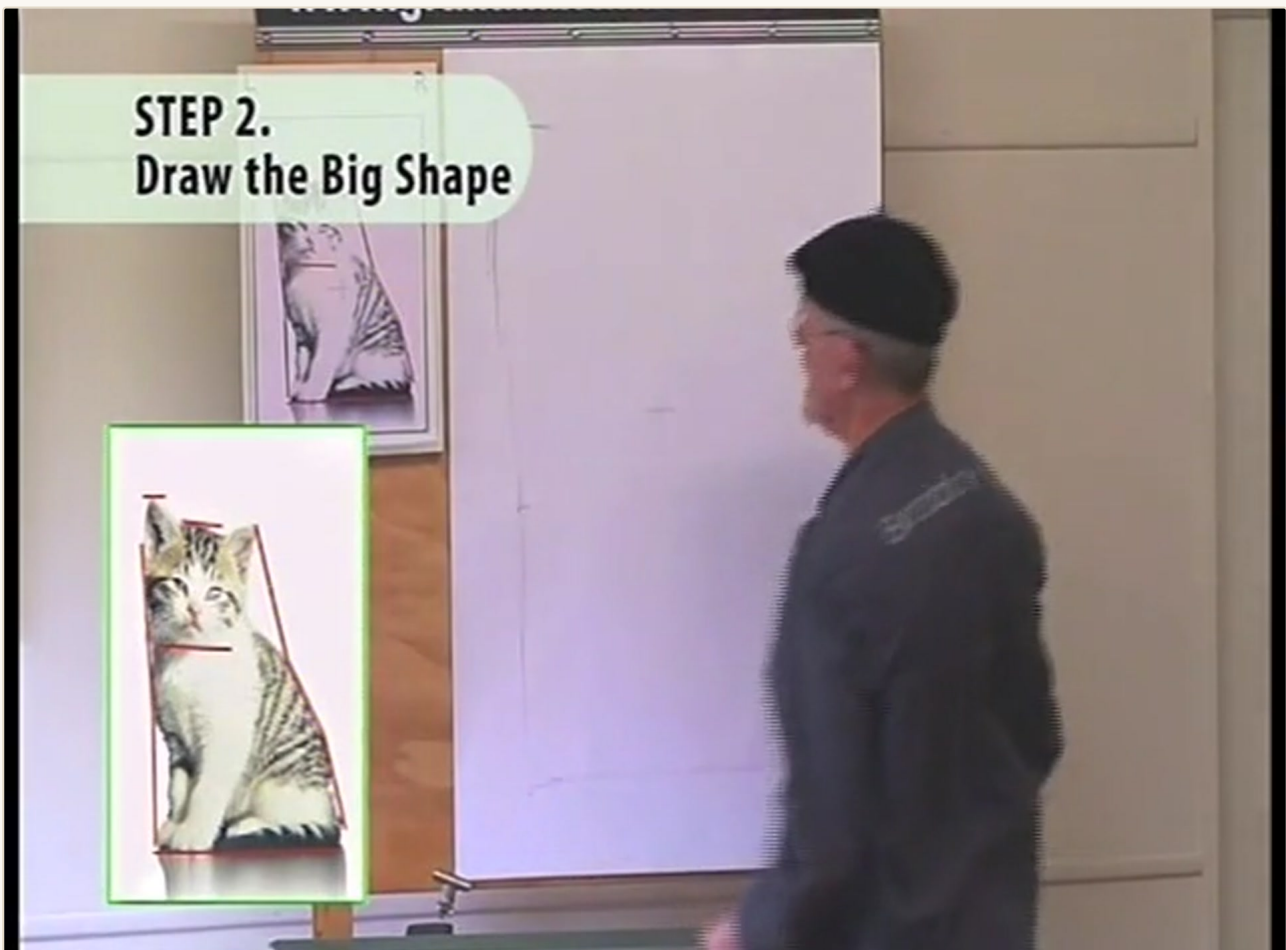
Draw the Kitten's Body Shape

Start by sketching the big shape of the kitten's body. Notice how it slopes in slightly before coming straight down. Capture this overall form to establish the kitten's body structure.

PRO TIP

Focus on capturing the overall shape of the kitten's body to guide the rest of your drawing.

4 Measuring proportions using head height



Measure Head Height

Determine the height of the kitten's head by measuring from the chin to the top of the ear. Use this measurement to gauge the overall height of the kitten.

Calculate Proportions

Count how many head heights fit into the kitten's full height. The kitten is approximately two and a half heads tall.

Mark Proportions

Use two fingers to mark the top and bottom of the head measurement. Repeat this measurement to find the total height, noting the extra space at the bottom.

PRO TIP

Use the head height as a unit of measurement to accurately gauge proportions.

5 Marking key points on the page



Mark the Top and Bottom

Make a mark at the top and bottom of your page. This will set the boundaries for your drawing.

Find the Middle

Identify the middle point between the top and bottom marks. This helps in proportioning your drawing accurately.

Mark the Chin

From the bottom mark, measure a short distance upwards and make a small mark. This indicates where the chin will be placed.

PRO TIP

Use the middle point to help balance and proportion your drawing.

6 Drawing the head's angle and ear shape



Observe the Head's Angle

Look at the kitten's head and notice if it is straight up and down or on a slight angle. Recognize that the head is on a little angle, which affects the overall drawing.

Draw the Slopey Lines

Draw a sloping line to represent the angle of the kitten's head. Start from the top of the ear and draw a slopey line downwards. This captures the angle and adds dynamism to your drawing.

PRO TIP

Use sloping lines to capture the angle of the head and add interest to your drawing.

7 Drawing the head and ears



Draw the Ear Shape

Sketch the ear starting with a straight line upward. Then, curve it slightly inward at the top. Ensure the ear is quite wide to capture the kitten's features.

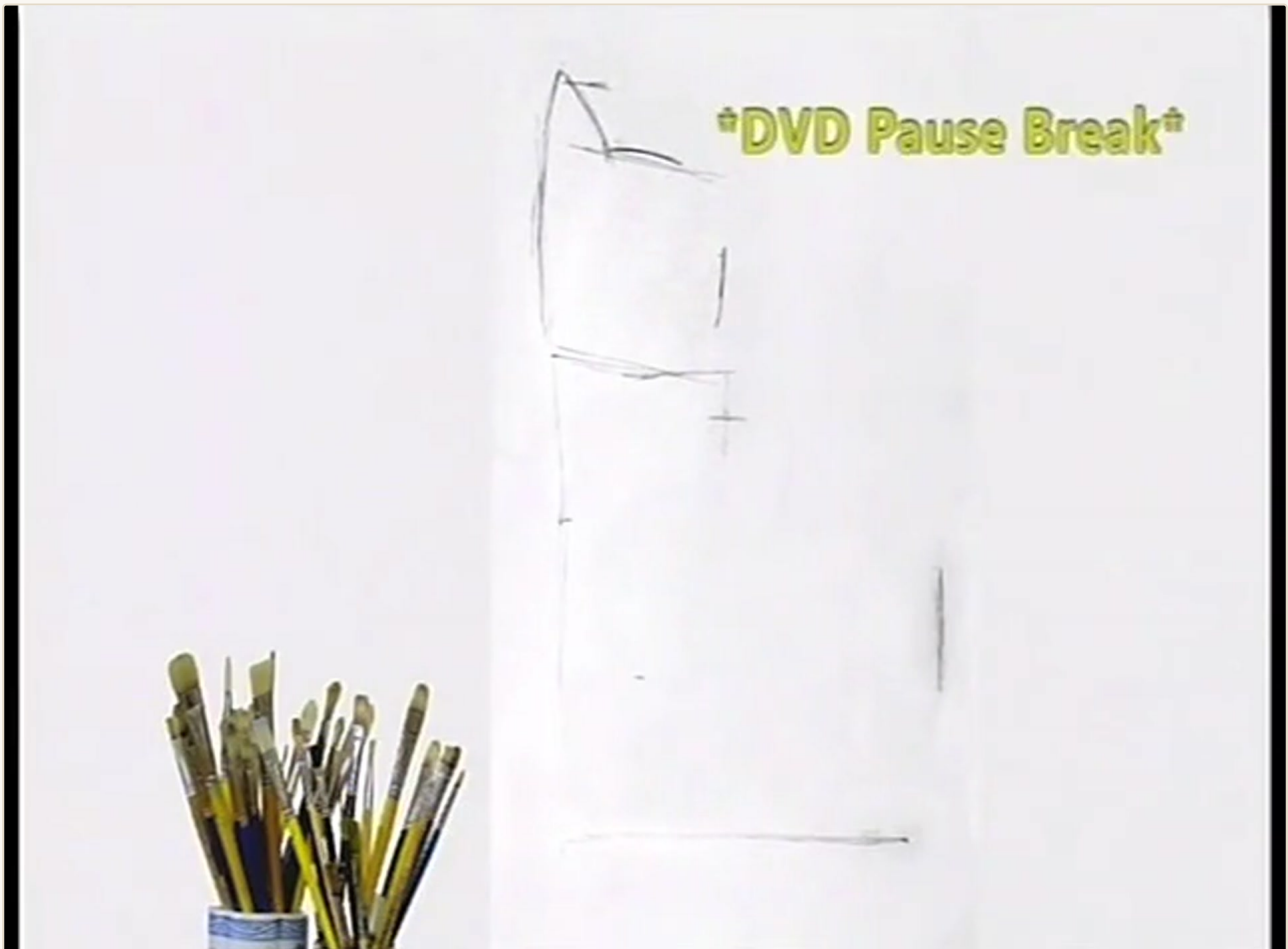
Determine Head Proportions

Identify the top of the kitten's head. The head should be about as wide as it is high, forming a circular shape. Measure the width and height to ensure they are approximately equal.

PRO TIP

The kitten's head should resemble a circle, with equal width and height.

8 Drawing the head circle



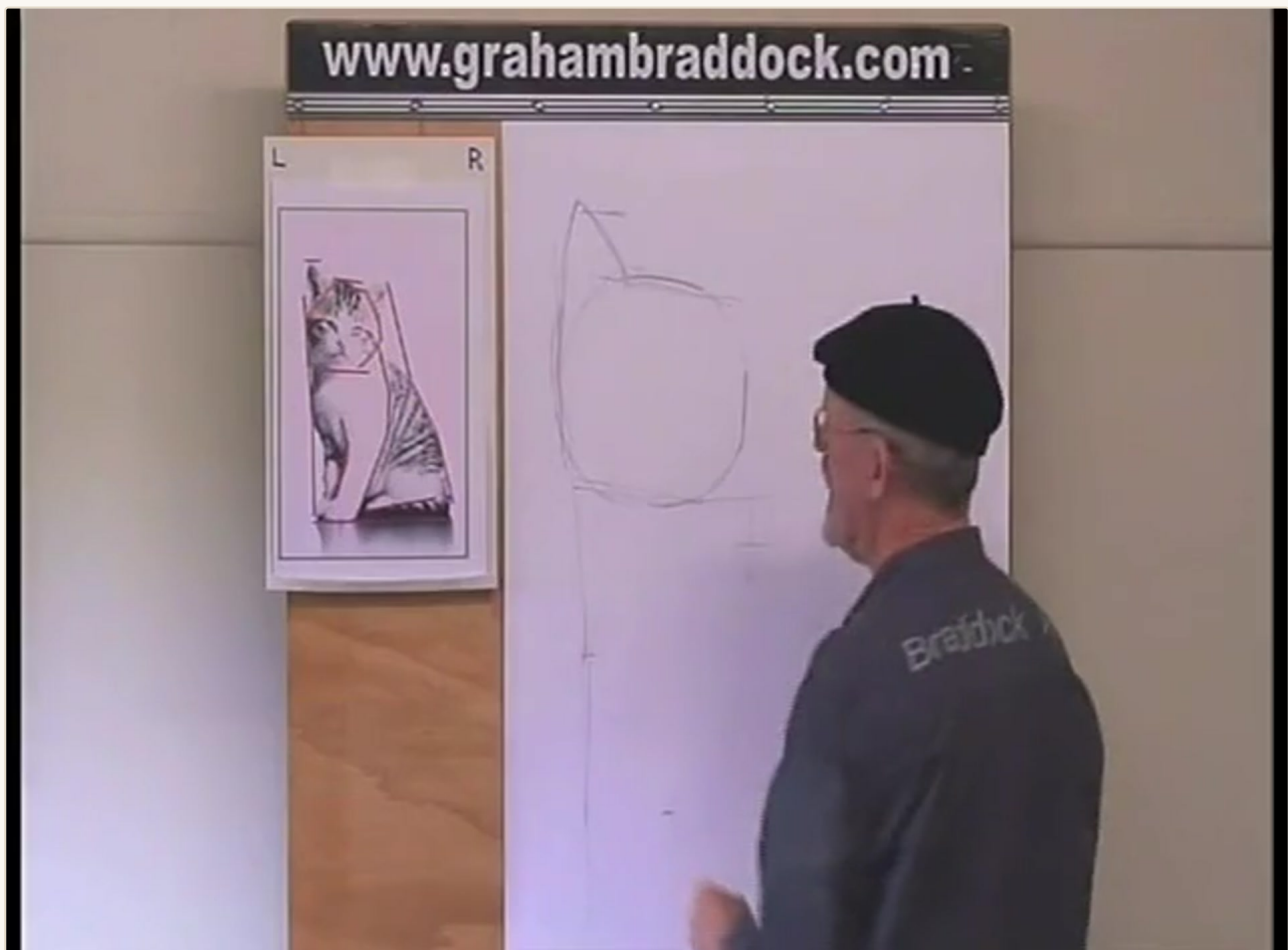
Draw the Head Circle

Draw a circle for the kitten's head. Ensure the circle is as wide as it is high to maintain proper proportions. Press lightly with your pencil to keep the lines soft and easy to adjust if needed.

PRO TIP

Press lightly with your pencil to make it easier to adjust your lines.

9 Adjusting ear placement and angle



Assess Ear Width

Observe the width of the ears in relation to the head. Notice that the ears are slightly wider than the head itself. This difference is minimal, just a tiny bit wider.

Draw the Ear Outline

Sketch the ear on the side of the head, ensuring it extends a little beyond the head's width. Begin by drawing it up and slightly outward to capture the correct proportion.

Align the Ear Angle

Ensure the top of the ears follows the same angle as the reference line. Draw the line for the top of the ear at this angle, extending it to the appropriate height.

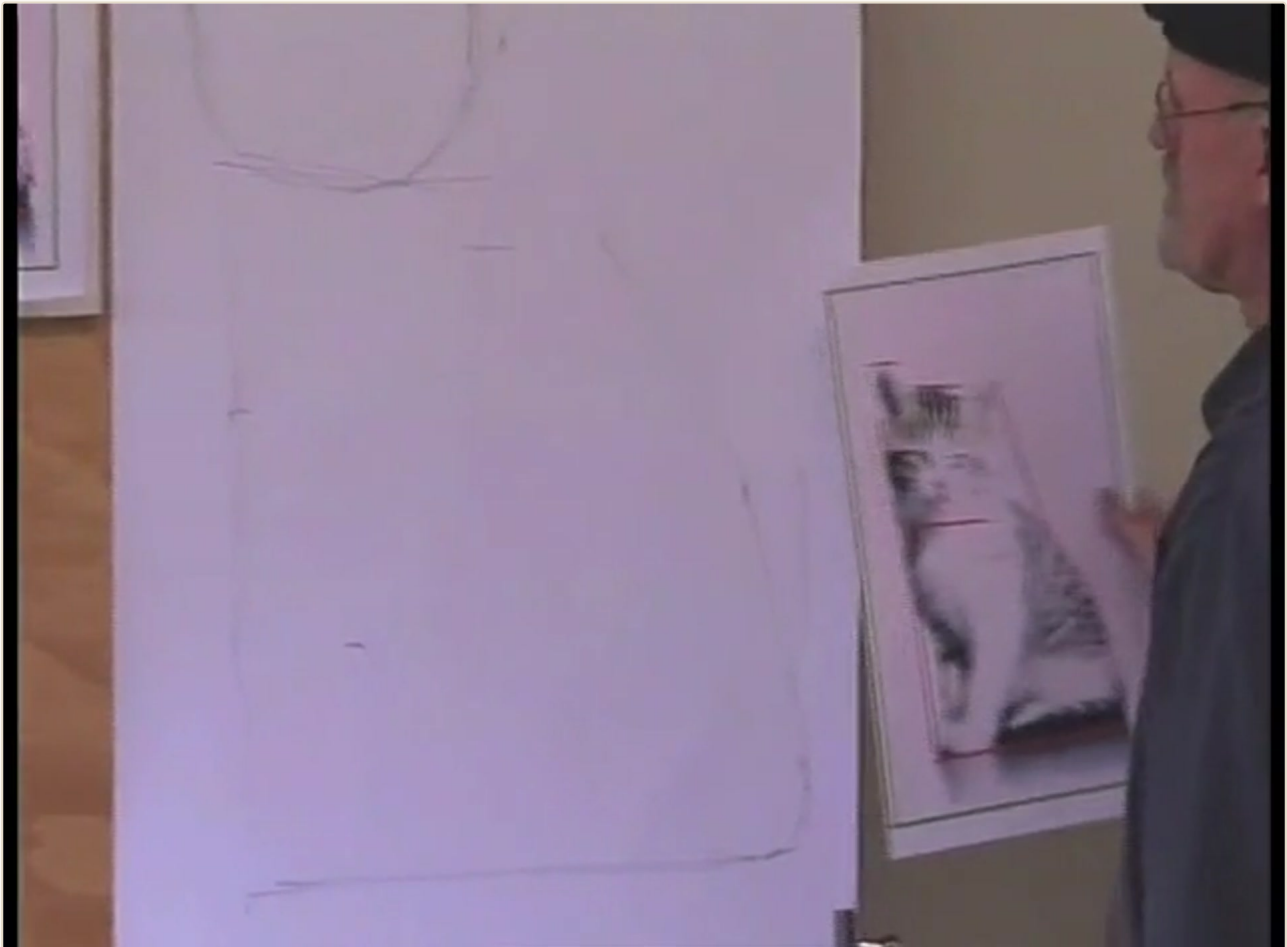
Finalize Ear Placement

Complete the ear by ensuring the line extends slightly further than the side of the head. Check that the angle and placement align with the reference lines.

PRO TIP

Ensure the top of the ears follows the same angle as the reference line for accurate placement.

10 Drawing the legs and feet



Draw the Kitten's Shoulder

Start by drawing the kitten's shoulder, which should be slightly wider than the head. Begin at the top and draw a line that comes out and then straight down, angling across slightly. Adjust if necessary to ensure the shoulder is proportionate.

Sketch the Kitten's Leg

Draw the leg starting from the shoulder. Make the upper part of the leg thick, as the kitten's leg is quite fat. Leave a space between the chin and the start of the leg to maintain correct proportions.

Define the Chest and Neck

Draw the neck and chest, ensuring the chest comes out as far as the head. The chest should curve inwards slightly, creating a natural transition to the leg.

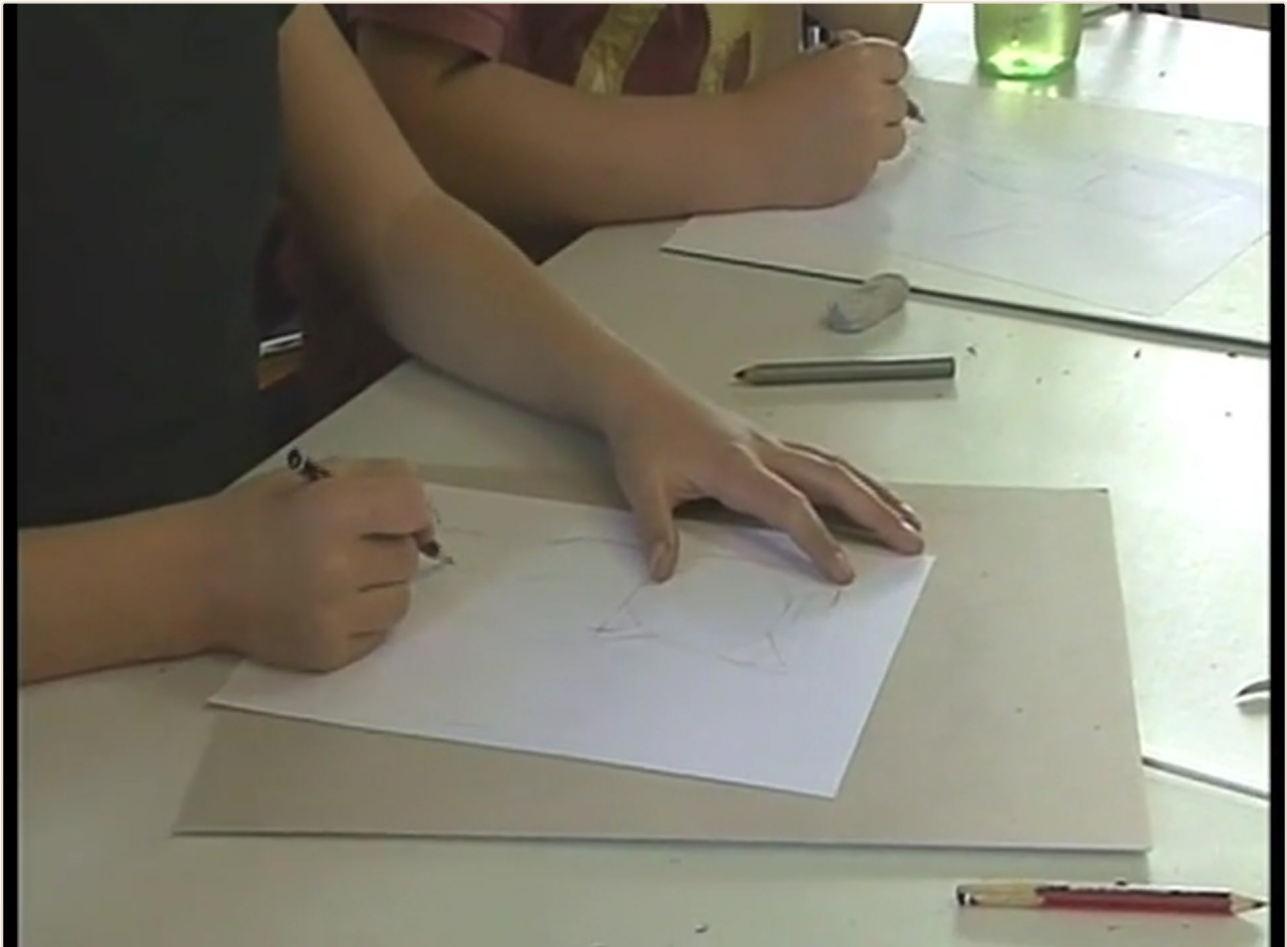
Position the Leg and Foot

Determine the midpoint between the chin and the foot. Start the leg from this midpoint, angling it downwards. As the leg descends, it should gradually get skinnier, ending with the foot and toes extending outwards.

PRO TIP

Ensure the chest and shoulder are wider than the head for accurate proportions.

11 Drawing the back and tail



Draw the Back

Start just above the level of the chin and draw a line that arches outwards to form the back. The line should then come down to a small bump.

Add the Tail

Draw the tail curving around from the back, making it wide at the base and gradually getting skinnier as it extends down to the foot.

Define the Chest and Tummy

Draw a line for the chest that comes inwards, then continue the line to suggest the tummy, which disappears behind the leg.

PRO TIP

Ensure the tail gets progressively skinnier as it approaches the foot.

12 Drawing the face and features



Draw the Face Guidelines

Draw a line just above the middle of the face to mark the top of the eyes. Add a line down through the center of the head, angling it slightly to match the tilt of the head. Keep these lines light to avoid pressing too hard.

Position the Facial Features

Draw a line across the face parallel to the ears, top of the head, and chin. This line will guide the placement of the eyes, which should be just above the middle.

Draw the Nose

Place a small line for the nose in the center between the eyes. Ensure it is not too far to either side. Add two small nostrils pointing inward towards the mouth.

Shape the Eyes

Draw the eyes more than the width of one eye apart, pointing down towards the nose. Make them quite large for an appealing look. Ensure the outside and inside slopes of the eyes match, with the top of the eye remaining flat.

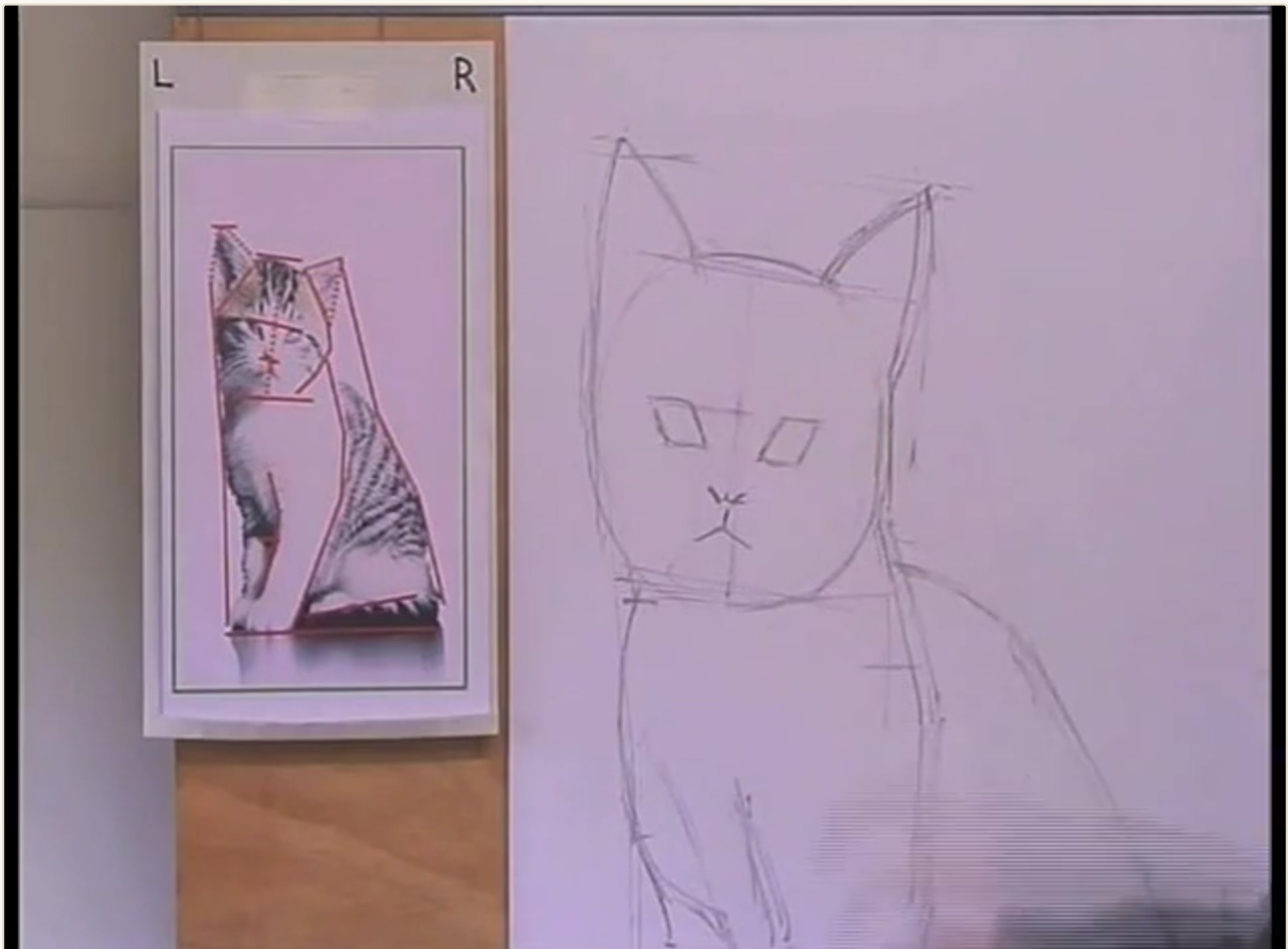
Complete the Mouth

Draw a small line from the nose downwards, then sketch the mouth extending outwards on both sides. This will complete the facial features of your kitten.

PRO TIP

Keep your lines light and gentle to easily adjust the features as needed.

13 Detailing the eyes and nose



Draw the Eyes

Start by drawing the eyes, which are the most important feature. Shape the eye like a kite and press hard to darken the upper eyelid. Add a line from the inside of the eye, extending slightly downward to form the lower eyelid. Include a small detail on the inside of the bottom eyelid for realism.

Add Eye Details

Draw the cat's pupil, remembering it's not a perfect circle. Leave space for sparkles: one on the inside of the pupil and another at the top, with a smaller one at the bottom. Shade the top of the eyelid to create a shadow inside the eye, ensuring it's not too light.

Draw the Nose

Sketch the cat's nose with a small triangle shape and add a nostril. Extend lines downward to suggest the nose's form. Add a touch of shine to the nose for a realistic effect.

Add Fur Details

Draw small, furry lines around the eyes and nose, allowing them to fade softly into the surrounding area. This will create the appearance of fur and enhance the kitten's overall texture.

PRO TIP

Remember to leave space for sparkles in the eyes to add life and realism.

14 Adding fur texture



Add Fur Texture

Create the fur texture by drawing small, furry lines. Focus on varying the direction and length to mimic the natural flow of fur. Press harder for darker areas and keep lighter areas soft and sparse.

Define Light and Shadow

Identify the light and dark areas on the animal. On the darker side, use more lines and press harder to create a shadow effect. On the lighter side, use fewer lines to suggest light reflecting off the fur.

Shape the Fur

Adjust the shape of the fur by extending lines outward, especially around the neck and back. Ensure the lines stick outwards to give a fluffy appearance. Pay attention to areas where the fur curves or changes direction.

Detail the Limbs

Add small lines to define the kitten's toes and legs. Make sure the toes are slightly higher or lower to show perspective. Use short, outward strokes for the fur on the legs and toes.

Emphasize the Tail

Draw the kitten's tail with upward strokes to emphasize the fluffiness. As the tail curves, adjust the direction of the lines to follow the curve, adding more lines for a fuller appearance.

PRO TIP

Press harder for darker fur areas to create a strong shadow effect.

15 Adding shadows and reflections



Use Pencil Techniques

Use the point of your pencil for detailed areas like the fur inside the ear. Switch to the side of the pencil for broader shading. This combination will help create texture and depth.

Add Light and Shadow

Create a pattern of dark coming down to light on the ear. Add a little shadow on the top of the ear to enhance its 3D appearance. Ensure shadows fade out as they approach the eyes.

Draw Dark Fur Lines

Draw a line of dark fur coming up to the eye, nearly touching it. Add another line underneath the eye, stopping before it reaches the whiskers. These lines add definition to the face.

Draw Whiskers

Draw the whiskers starting from the nose downwards. Ensure they are prominent but not overpowering the rest of the face.

Shade the Face and Chin

Lightly shade the side of the face and under the chin using the side of the pencil. Keep the shading soft to maintain the lightness of the fur.

Add Fur Texture

Use little up and down zigzag lines to create fur texture on the leg. Darken the leg's shadow towards the edge for depth.

Create Light Shadows

Add very light shadows on the lower part of the leg and the outside. Keep the pressure light to maintain the softness of the fur.

Draw Tabby Cat Patterns

Draw wiggle lines to represent the tabby cat's patterns. Keep lines in the same direction as the fur and vary the spacing for a natural look.

Shade the Tail

Curve the tail with wiggle lines, keeping it mostly dark with some light areas. This will give the tail a realistic appearance.

Add Reflections

Create reflections under the cat, such as from the toes and tail. These reflections add realism and ground the cat in its environment.

PRO TIP

Use the side of the pencil for soft shadows and the point for detailed lines to create texture and depth.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Embark on your drawing journey by setting up a structured framework on your page. Begin with a small square to find the center, and use light vertical and horizontal lines to guide your drawing's alignment. This foundational step ensures your subject, like a kitten, is positioned accurately and proportionately.

As you move forward, focus on capturing the kitten's overall body shape and proportions. Use the head height as a unit of measurement to maintain accurate proportions, and sketch the body, head, and ears with attention to their angles and shapes. Lightly draw the kitten's features, ensuring the head is circular and the ears are slightly wider than the head.

Bring your drawing to life by adding texture and details. Use small, furry lines to create the appearance of fur, and vary the pressure of your pencil to distinguish between light and dark areas. Add shadows and reflections to enhance depth and realism, and don't forget to include sparkles in the eyes for a lively touch. With these techniques, your drawing will capture the essence of the kitten in a dynamic and engaging way.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use light lines to divide the page for easy adjustments.
- Position elements using your fingers as a guide.
- Capture the overall shape of the body to guide the drawing.
- Use head height as a unit to gauge proportions.
- Ensure the top of the ears follows the reference line angle.
- Keep lines light for easy adjustments of features.
- Press harder for darker fur areas to create shadows.
- Use the side of the pencil for soft shadows and the point for details.



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