

TOM THOMSON'S SKETCHING ADVENTURE

STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS

Gather the following materials:



- Paper, watercolour or regular
- Board—this will act as desk for you to work on
- Pencil
- Watercolour crayons or pencil crayons—if you don't have these any crayons will do!
- Water
- Paint brush
- Clips
- Eraser

STEP 2: CHOOSE AN OUTDOOR SKETCHING LOCATION

Take your time to choose a good location to sketch.

Do you have a nice view?

Does it make for an interesting picture?

Be sure to make yourself comfortable!



STEP 3: DRAW THE COMPOSITION

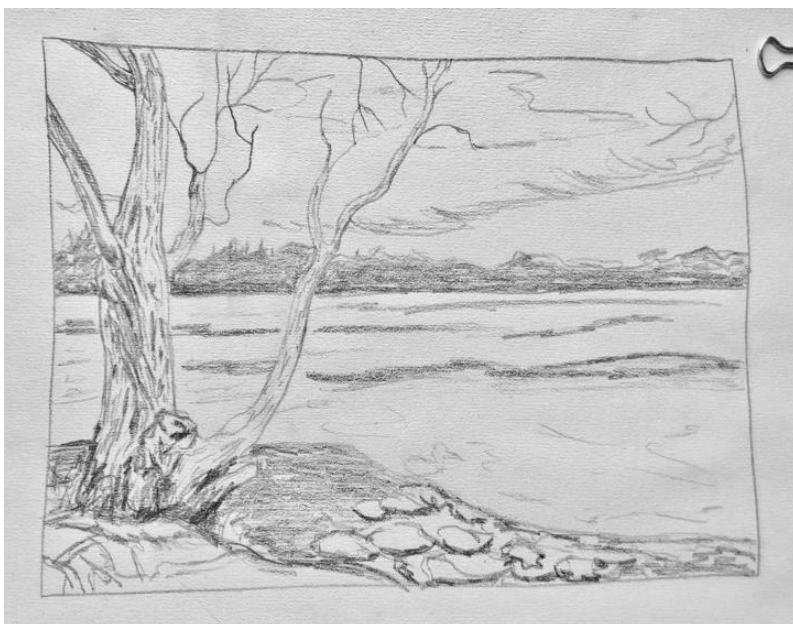
Begin by clipping your paper securely to your board. Draw a frame for your sketch (it doesn't have to be perfect—no ruler necessary) and start to lightly sketch out the composition of your picture. What do you see?

- Add a foreground, middleground and background while keeping the following points in mind:
 - ✓ Objects in the foreground (bottom of the paper) are closer to you so they appear larger
 - ✓ Objects in the background (top of the paper) are further away, (think about an airplane) so they appear smaller
- Your sketch should be very simple (just a line drawing) and does not require too much detail
- What makes your picture interesting? Choose a focal point and add it to your drawing—this could be a road, a tree or a waterfall.



TIP: Press very lightly with your pencil so that if you need to erase it is much easier to do so!

STEP 4: ADD DETAILS



Once you have the entire composition mapped out you can begin to add some more details. Try to give your drawing a variety of values (dark, medium and light areas). If you want to eventually add colour to your sketch be sure to add these details very lightly.

STEP 5: ADD COLOUR

If you want to colour your work, now is the time to add it! Begin with softer colours in the background and work your way up to darker colours as you move closer to the foreground. Feel free to mix and match colours. Your imagination is the limit!

TIP: Test out your colours with water on a separate sheet of paper—you may be surprised at how lightly you will have to colour.



STEP 6: ADD WATER (IF YOU USED WATERCOLOUR CRAYONS)

Once you are happy with your creation, slowly add some water to your drawing if you used watercolour crayons. Add the water one section at a time, working your way through the painting from top to bottom! You may only need a tiny bit of water.

TIP: Dip your brush and tap it on some paper towel before adding it to your drawing. This will help remove any extra water on the brush.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF: Create three or four sketches in the same spot. When you return home, you can decide which painting will serve as the basis for you to create a more polished piece of art!

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