In sketching, value is the amount of light or darkness. Notice the light in this gallery. Can you find any shadows that the sculptures and people create? Look at one of the sculptures near you. Where are the darkest shadows? Where are the lightest areas?

Let's Create a Value Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lightest</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Darkest</th>
</tr>
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• The far left of the scale above is completely light, and the far right is completely dark. In the middle is a value between these two.
• Use your pencil to fill in the rest so the scale gets darker toward the right and lighter toward the left.
• Now that you've practiced, use different values in your sketches!

Look at one sculpture. Find an area that has different values—dark, medium, and light. Make a small sketch below. Sometimes artists call this a thumbnail sketch. (Can you guess why?)

Keep sketching! The Museum is a great place to sketch and learn from the art that you see. You can also sketch in the park, at home—anywhere!

Explore Art in the Museum through Sketching!

As your pencil creates marks on the paper, let your eyes look carefully and you will find something that you didn't notice before. Invite a friend or family member to sketch with you.

What is a Sketch?

A sketch is a simple drawing. It doesn't have to be perfect or even have many details. In fact, artists create sketches just to work out an idea or get warmed up. As you sketch in the Museum, experiment—try a few techniques and see what works best for you!

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Choose one work of art (or part of one) and sketch the outline of what you see. What kind of line will you use?

Think about the shapes you are creating.

Last, add value to your sketch.

Look at your sketch and enjoy your work! Which is your favorite part? Would you change areas?

While you were sketching, did you notice something about the art that you didn't see at first?

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Looking at Lines

On Your Mark!
Let's go to the Modern and Contemporary Art galleries on the second floor. Find a quiet spot to start.

Shape Up Your Sketch
Let's go downstairs to the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas on the first floor.

THINK BIG, THEN SMALL

• Choose an African sculpture to sketch.
• Sketch the larger shapes first, then the smaller ones.
• Think about the shapes you see, and how they fit together.
• Don't forget that empty spaces are important shapes to sketch, too!
• Fill in the empty spaces in your sketches. How does this change them?

WARM UP!

• How many different kinds of marks can you make in this space?
• Can you make marks that show movement? Stillness?
• Can you create marks that look soft and squiggly? Sharp and pointed?
• Repeat the same mark to create a pattern.

What kinds of lines do these artists use? How would you describe them?

Add to this list:
1. squiggly
2. thin
3. soft
4. jagged
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 

A line can be a long mark. Artists use lines in different ways—to outline a figure, to sketch a landscape, or to create something from their imagination. You see a line everyday without even thinking about it—when you write!

Write three words to describe yourself:
1. 
2. 
3. 

What types of lines did you use? Are they:

• Curved?
• Blocky?
• Thick or thin?
• Connected or separate?

A shape doesn't have to be a circle, triangle, or square. Look around at the sculptures in the African Art galleries. Can you find shapes that don't have a name? How would you describe these shapes?

BONUS

What shapes do the empty spaces make? Artists sometimes call the solid parts of the sculpture positive space and the carved-out areas negative space.

Look at the art near you. Can you find thick lines? Thin lines? Rough or smooth lines? Curved? Blocky? Thick or thin? Connected or separate?

What kinds of marks do these artists use? How would you describe them?

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-looking closely at the art near you. Can you find anything that looks like:

1. long mark
2. short mark
3. thin
4. thick
5. soft
6. jagged
7. connected
8. separate

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- In this space, explore one work of art by sketching it with lines. You may even want to choose part of the object to sketch.
- Look at your sketch. Tell a friend or family member what kinds of lines you used.

WARM UP!

- How many different kinds of marks can you make in this space?
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Pencil Points
• Different pencils make different marks. If you can, use a regular “No. 2” pencil for sketching in this guide.
• Hold the pencil in different ways. Which way feels best?
• Use this guide to learn more about three important elements in art and in sketching: LINE, SHAPE, and VALUE.

Leonardo da Vinci recorded what he saw around him in countless drawings and notebooks. In this sketch of a bear, you can see that he probably looked very closely as he drew—and redrew—to show what the animal really looked like.

RIGHT: Jacques Sarrazin (French, 1592–1660), Leda and the Swan (detail), ca. 1694–1700; white marble, H. 62 in.; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Purchase, C. Michael Paul Gift, and Bequest of Mary Cushing Fosburgh and Gift of Irwin Untermyer, by exchange, 1980 (1980.5)

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Make Your Mark
Sketching in the galleries of the Metropolitan Museum

EXPLORE ART IN THE MUSEUM THROUGH SKETCHING!

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