

OBSERVATION

Leonardo da Vinci was a keen artist and he also invented things. He would carefully observe the world and draw what he saw. You can also take your sketchbook out and draw the things around you.

PROJECT: SKETCHING

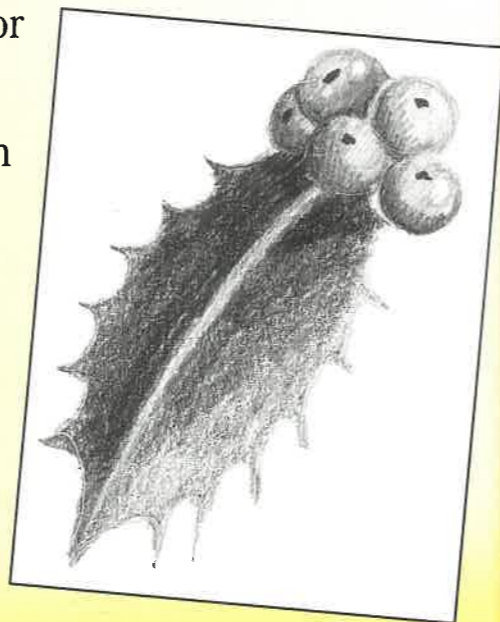
Step 1. Buy some different grades of pencil, like HB, 4B, 6B, and 4H.

Try them out in your sketchbook, making as many different dark and light marks as you can.

Step 2. Look around your house or backyard for interesting objects to sketch. Make sure you look slowly and carefully before you start to draw. You can write notes about what you see, too.

Step 3. Now use these sketches to make a still-life drawing, using all the different pencils you have already tried out.

WHAT YOU NEED
Sketchbook
Selection of Pencils



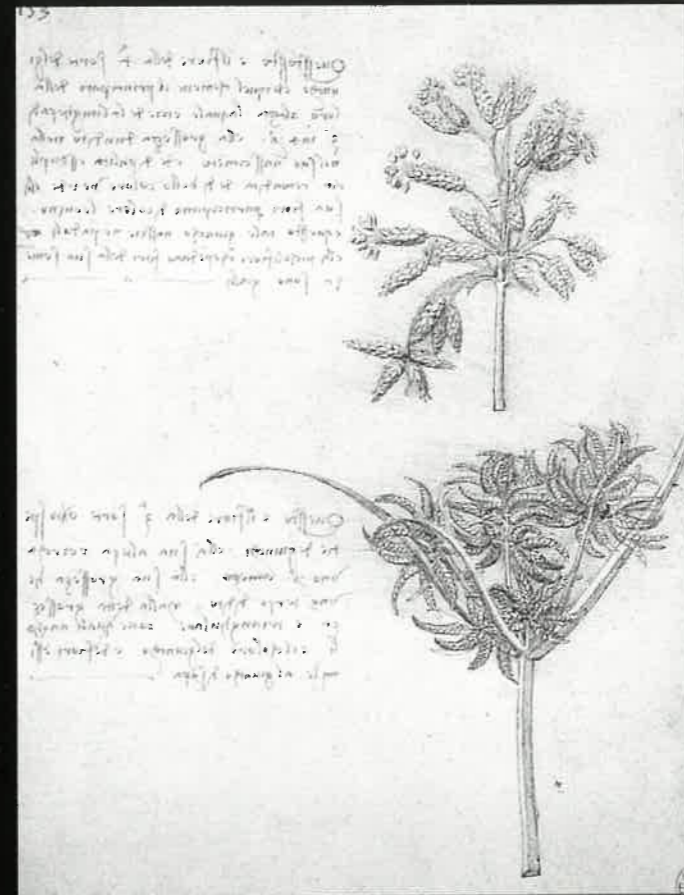
GALLERY

Sketches c.1508

LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452-1519)



WRITING BACKWARD
Da Vinci was left-handed. In the days of writing with pen and ink, this made things difficult—as you pushed the pen forward, your hand would trail over the ink. Leonardo had a better idea. He wrote backward.



DETAIL
As there were no cameras to capture detail, Leonardo used his pencil to record plants and other objects.



OBSERVATION
Look how carefully he observed everything he wanted to paint.

Leonardo da Vinci was famous even in his own lifetime as a great artist and inventor. He was one of Italy's most gifted painters. He tried to make his paintings and drawings perfect. He made detailed studies of nature and the anatomy of the human body. He made sketches of airplanes, helicopters, and many other machines that were not even invented when he was alive.