

# Study of a Flower (Leonardo da Vinci)



Outline a flower with mixed-weight contour lines and add shading with mixed-weight hatching lines

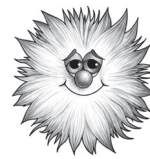
## Resources:

- 5.1.R2 The Anatomy of Individual Lines
- 5.1.R3 Making Lines More Powerful

**Supplies:** paper, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, and 6B pencils, pencil sharpener, sandpaper block, erasers

This activity has two sections:

- Outline with Mixed Lineweights
- Add Shading with Mixed Lineweights



## As an Aside

This activity is based on a small section (Figure 1) of a larger drawing by Leonardo da Vinci: *Study of the Flowers of Grass-like Plants*, c. 1481-1483, pen and ink over metalpoint on prepared paper, 7.2 by 8.3 in (18.3 by 21 cm), Gallerie dell' Accademia, Venice, Italy.

## Outline with Mixed Lineweights

1. Sketch the basic proportions with a 2H or HB graphite pencil (Figures 2 to 5).

These sketches have been darkened in Photoshop so you can see them clearly.

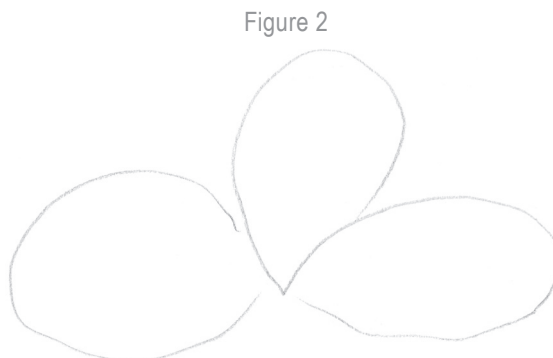


Figure 2

Figure 1



Figure 3

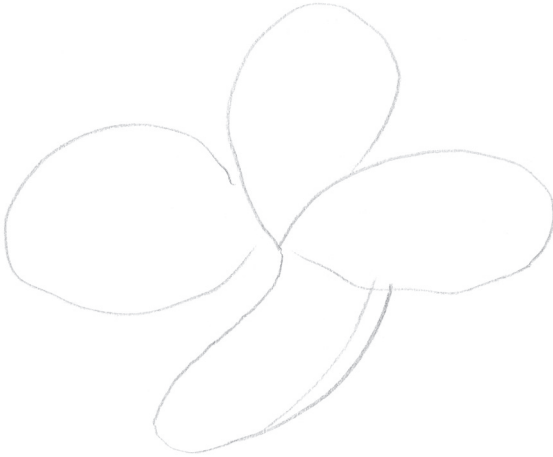


Figure 4

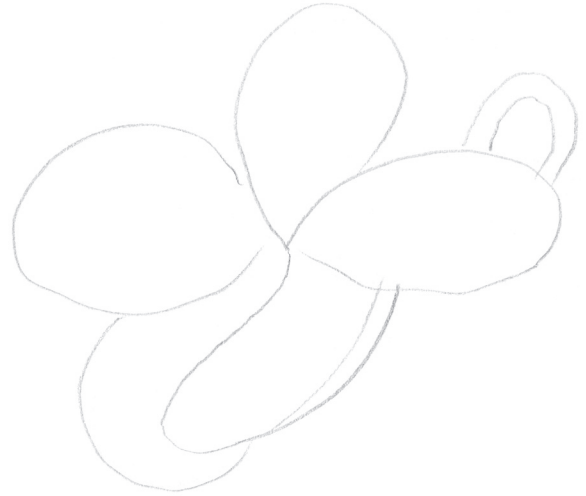
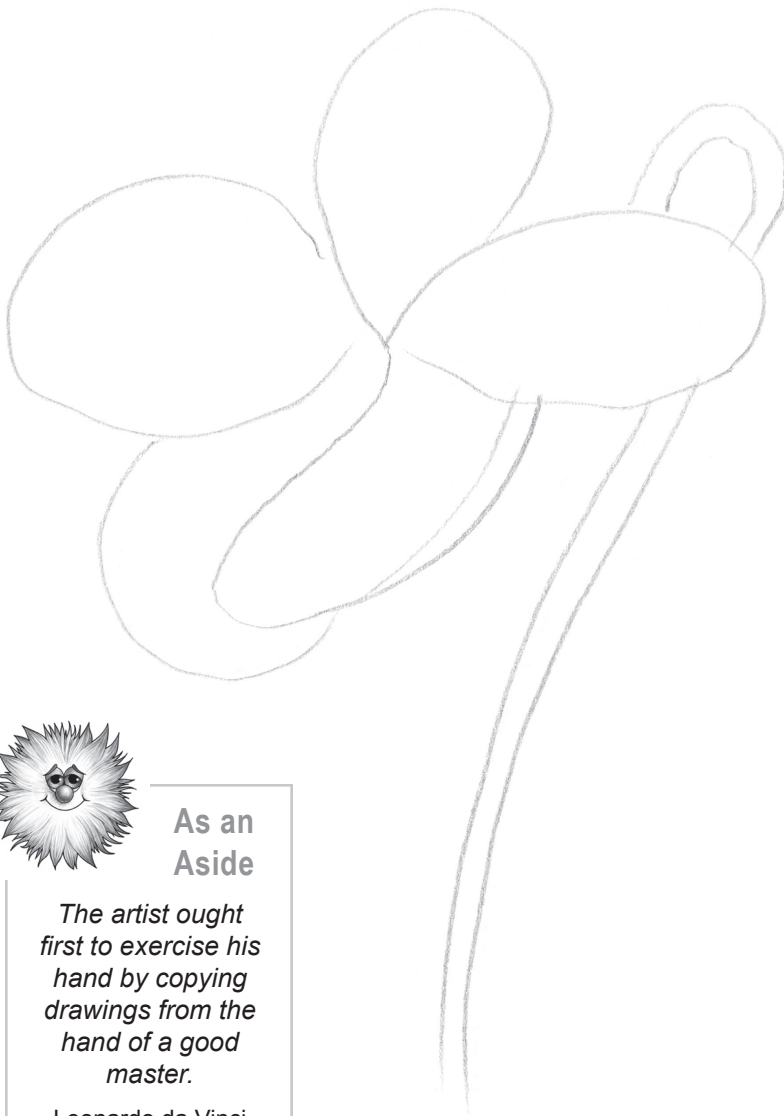


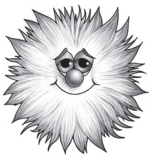
Figure 5

**Tip!**

If you are left-handed, keep your drawing right-side-up as you work. If you are right-handed, turn the drawing sideways as you work.

2. **Use a kneaded eraser to lighten your sketch lines.**
3. **Follow along with Figures 6 to 13 to render an outline of a flower.**

Use whatever pencils and techniques you prefer in order to achieve the same lineweights demonstrated in the illustrations.

**As an Aside**

*The artist ought first to exercise his hand by copying drawings from the hand of a good master.*

Leonardo da Vinci

Figure 6

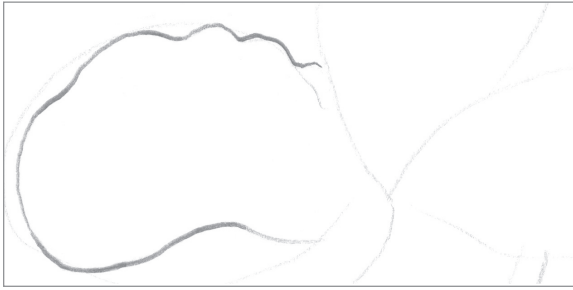


Figure 7



Figure 8

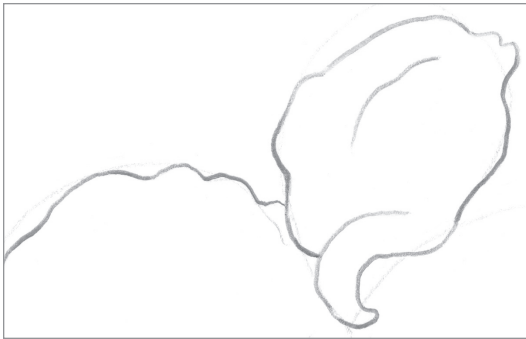


Figure 9



Figure 10

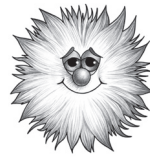
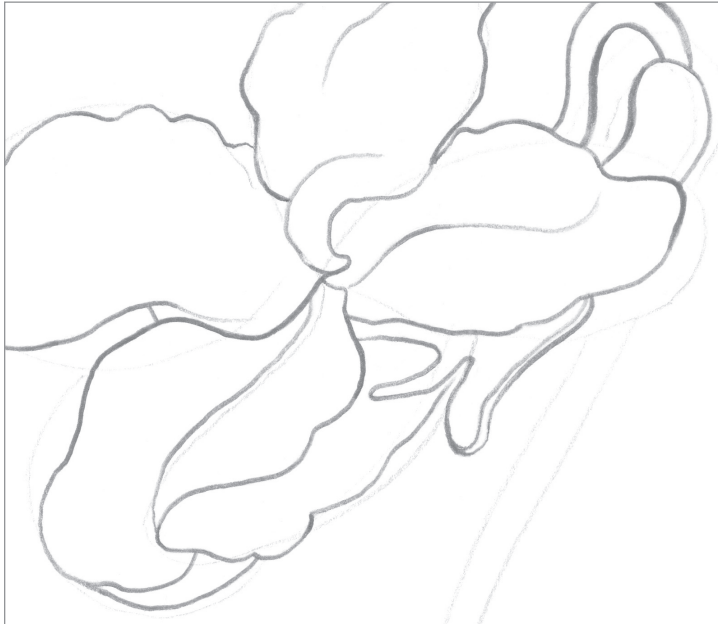


Figure 11

**Tip!**

You have the option of erasing your original sketch lines as you go. However, initial sketch lines usually make a drawing more fascinating, in that the viewer has insights into your drawing process.

Figure 12

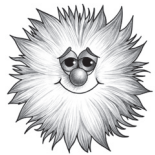


### As an Aside

*The eye, which is called the window of the soul, is the principal means by which the central sense can most completely and abundantly appreciate the infinite works of nature.*

Leonardo da Vinci

Figure 13



### As an Aside

Leonardo da Vinci was born April 15, 1452 in Vinci, Italy to a peasant woman named Caterina and a notary named Piero da Vinci.

He was named "Lionardo di ser Piero da Vinci", which roughly translates to "Leonardo, (son) of (Mes) ser Piero from Vinci". The title "ser" indicated that Leonardo's father was a gentleman.

As a small child, Leonardo lived in his mother's home in the hamlet of Anchiano. In 1457 he moved to the household of his father, grandparents, and uncle in the small town of Vinci.

Leonardo received his early education in the studio of the renowned Florentine painter, Verrocchio.

## Add Shading with Mixed Lineweights

### 4. Use hatching to add shading to your contour drawing.

Refer to Figures 14 to 18.

Figure 14

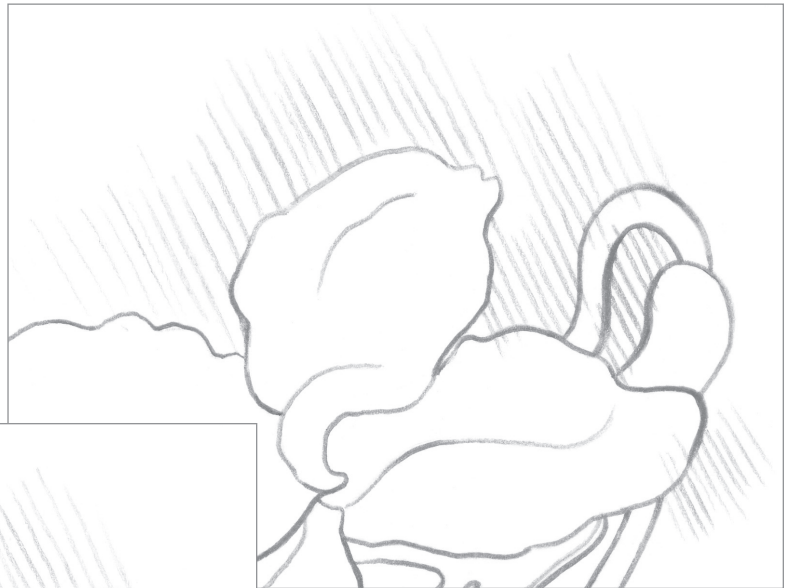
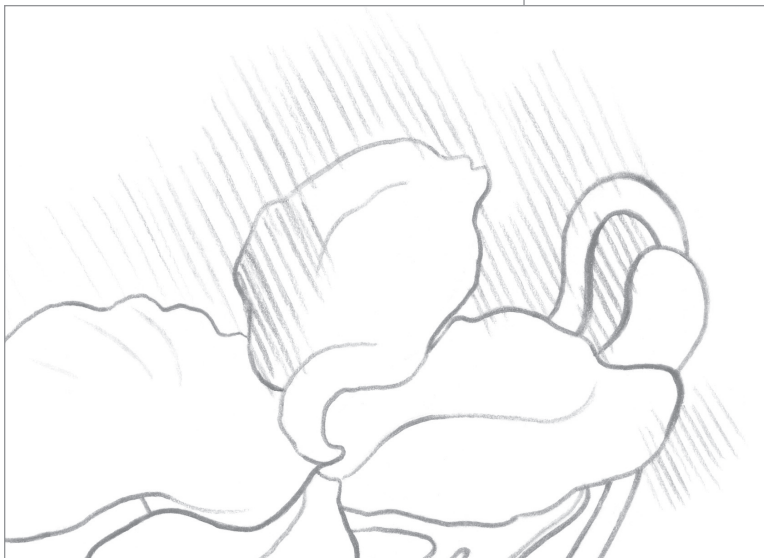
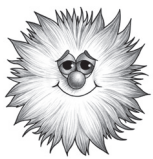
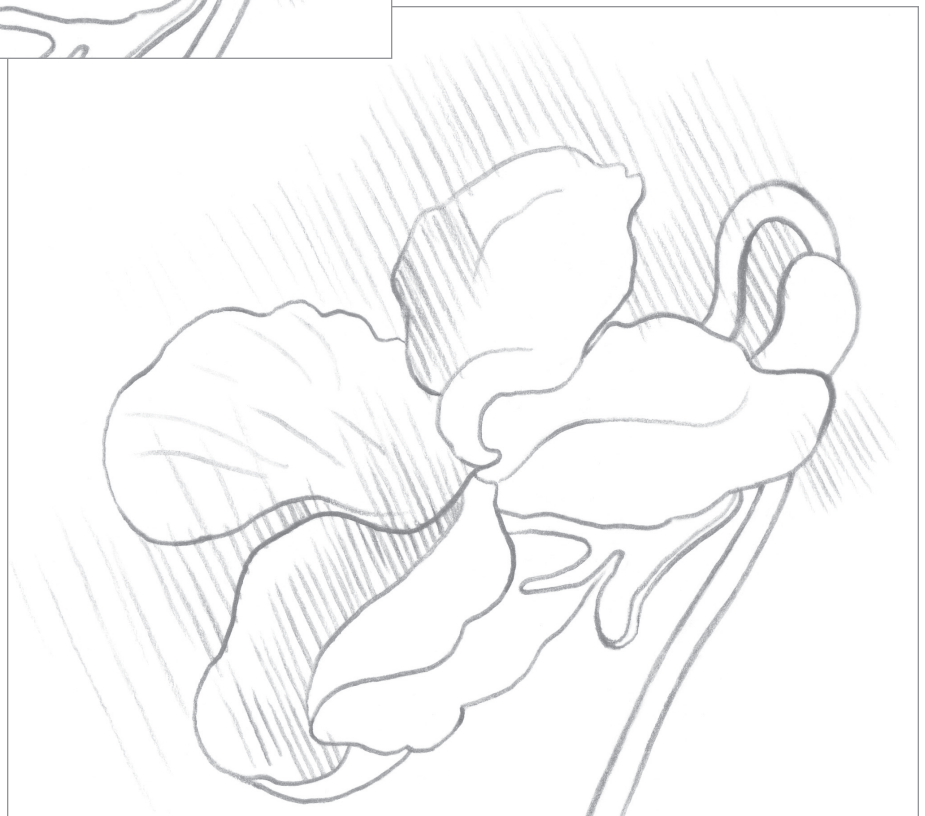


Figure 15



Carefully examine the various weights of the hatching lines and choose grades of pencils that can duplicate the shading in each section.

Figure 16



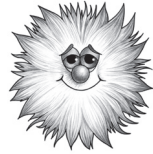
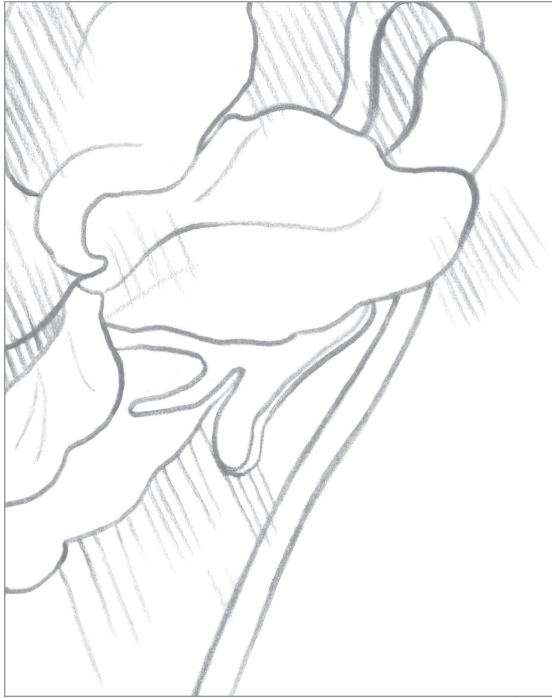
#### As an Aside

Leonardo was left-handed and a master of hatching.

His diagonal hatching lines were drawn from the upper left to lower right, and from the lower right to the upper left.



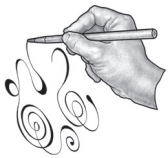
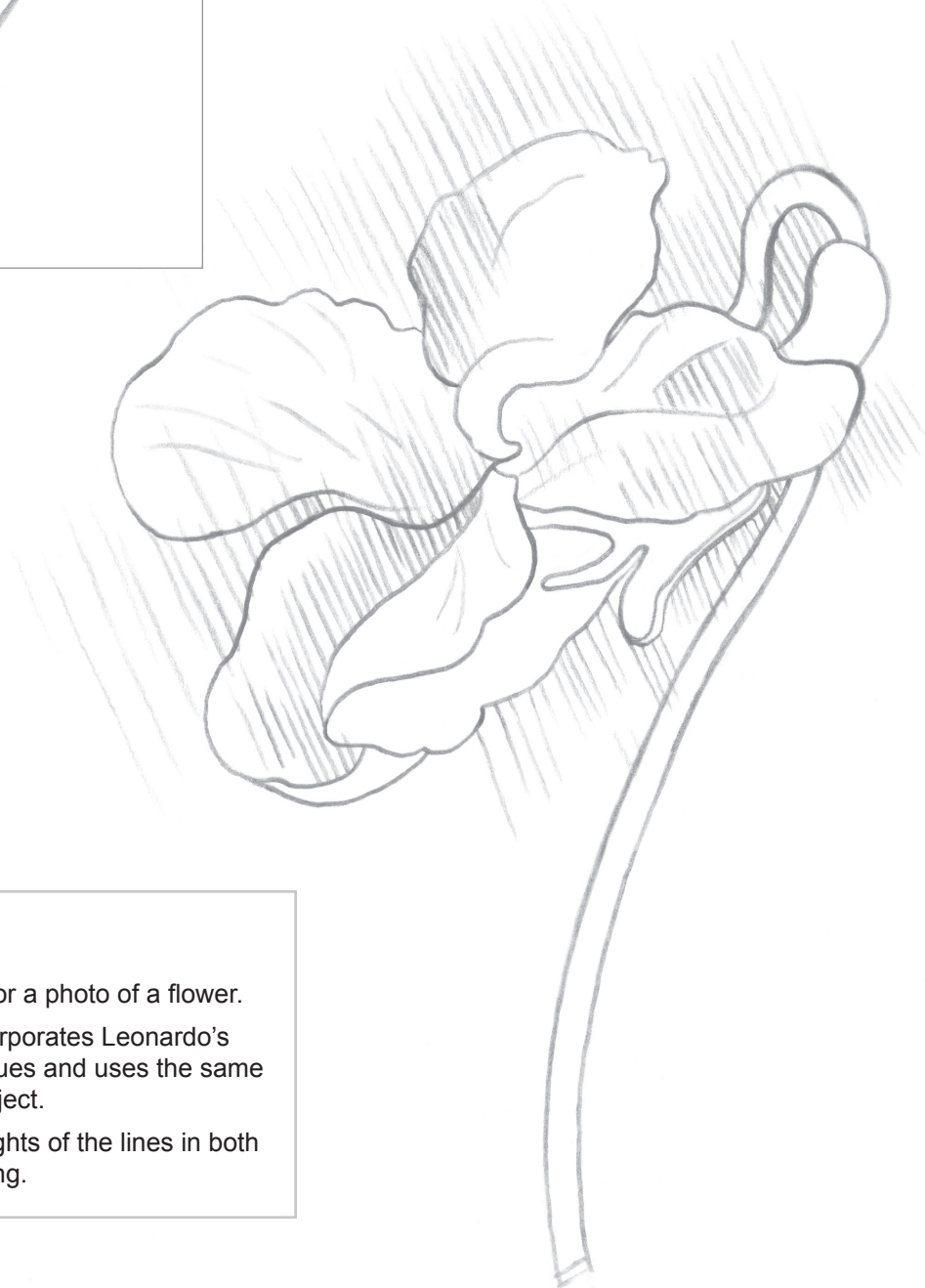
Figure 17



### As an Aside

In the words of art historian Helen Gardner, “his [Leonardo da Vinci] mind and personality seem to us superhuman, the man himself mysterious and remote”.

Figure 18



### Challenge!

Find a simple living flower or a photo of a flower.  
 Render a drawing that incorporates Leonardo's drawing styles and techniques and uses the same process outlined in this project.  
 Remember to vary the weights of the lines in both the outlines and the hatching.