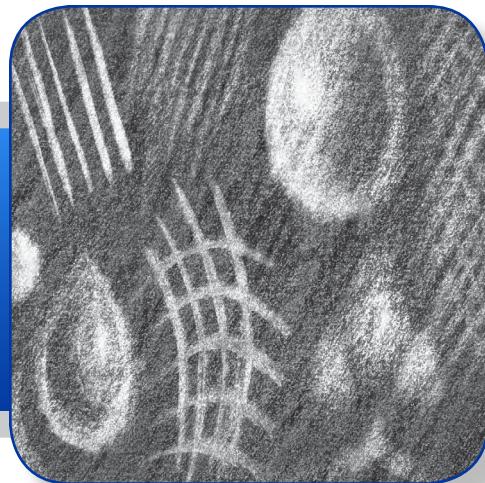


Level: Beginner
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 7.9
Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease: 67.4
Drawspace Curriculum 1.1.A4 - 2 Pages and 3 Illustrations

Play with Kneaded and Vinyl Erasers

Experiment with charcoal as a shading medium and two different types of erasers as drawing tools



Resource: 1.1.R9 Checking Out Charcoal

Supplies: heavy white drawing paper or smooth watercolor paper, charcoal (stick, powder, or pencil), kneaded eraser, vinyl eraser, paper towels

The technique of removing values (rather than adding them) is a fun twist on traditional drawing.

Most artists are familiar with drawing dark values on a light surface. In this activity, you draw light values on a dark surface.

1. Use charcoal to shade in a section of a sheet of drawing paper (Figure 1).

If you are using a charcoal pencil, shade with the side of the pencil point instead of the tip. It's faster and you end up with a smoother surface.



ArtSpeak

Blending: The process of gently rubbing a section of shading with a blending tool (such as paper towel) to evenly distribute the medium over the paper's surface.

Blending tool: Anything used by an artist to blend a medium.



Tip!

When used as drawing tools, vinyl and kneaded erasers are very different from one another:

- The sharp edge of a vinyl eraser works well for drawing light areas and fine details. If the edge of your vinyl eraser gets too dull to draw properly, use a very sharp blade or knife to cut off a new piece about an inch long or cut a thin slice off the end of the eraser.
- A kneaded eraser is great for lightening large areas. You can either pat or gently rub the surface of your paper with the kneaded eraser. To draw fine details, simply mould the tip of the eraser to a point or wedge. To clean your kneaded eraser, stretch and reshape (*knead*) it several times until it comes clean.



Caution!

If too much pressure is applied with either the charcoal or the blending tool, you'll grind the charcoal into the paper. Then, the charcoal won't erase – thereby defeating the whole purpose of this exercise.

- 2. Use a piece of paper towel or another blending tool to gently blend the charcoal until you have a relatively solid tone (Figure 2).**
- 3. Use your erasers to pull light values from the dark drawing surface (Figure 3).**

Feel free to experiment with the erasers and remember to have fun!

Figure 1

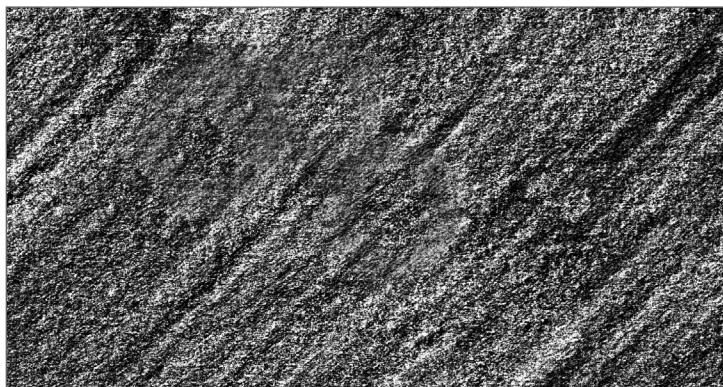
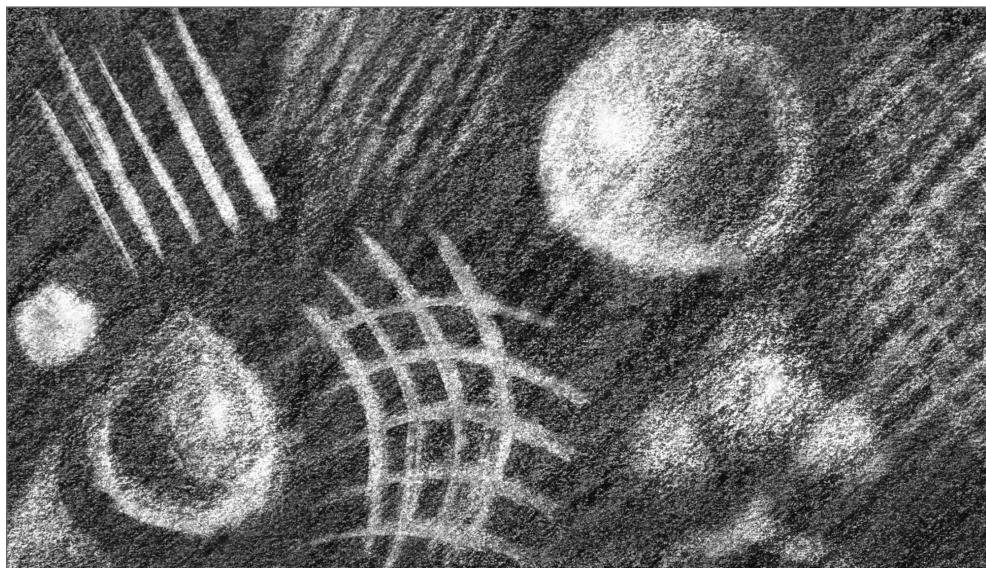


Figure 2



Figure 3



This technique of removing values with an eraser is used for shading many textures in realistic drawings, and is particularly helpful for rendering hair and fur.