

The Big Draw 2021: FACES, PLACES

How To: Draw a Self-Portrait



This worksheet will guide you through how to draw a self-portrait, so you can complete your **FACES, PLACES** card tile portrait with confidence. It will teach you the general proportions of portrait drawing, so you can apply this to your own face or others.

The human face typically follows a pattern in the way the different features of the eyes, nose and mouth are laid out. You will sketch the layout for a generic face and then look at your own face to achieve a good likeness.

Step 1

A picture of you

1. You will need a mirror or a selfie to complete your self-portrait.
2. Print out the selfie so you can clearly see all your features. If possible, do this in black & white to see the tones more clearly.
3. You will be drawing your final artwork onto the card tile coaster, however, to practice getting all the proportions right, you might want to use a sketchbook or piece of A4 paper to start off (or turn these sheets over and use the backs).

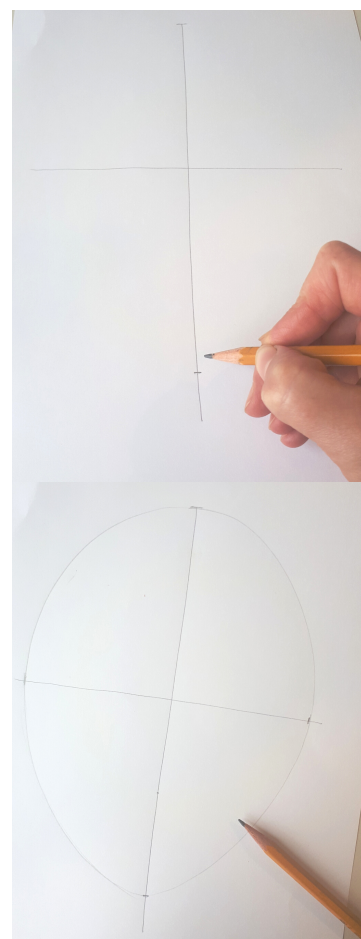
Here are some tips to taking a selfie!

- Make sure you have from the top of your head to your shoulders in the frame.
- Make sure your ears can be seen, tuck back your hair if necessary.
- Look slightly above the screen of your phone so you can see the full shape of your eye.
- A gentle smile is fine but no teeth, as this makes it more complicated.
- Don't have anything too distracting in the background of the photograph.

Step 2

Structure of the face

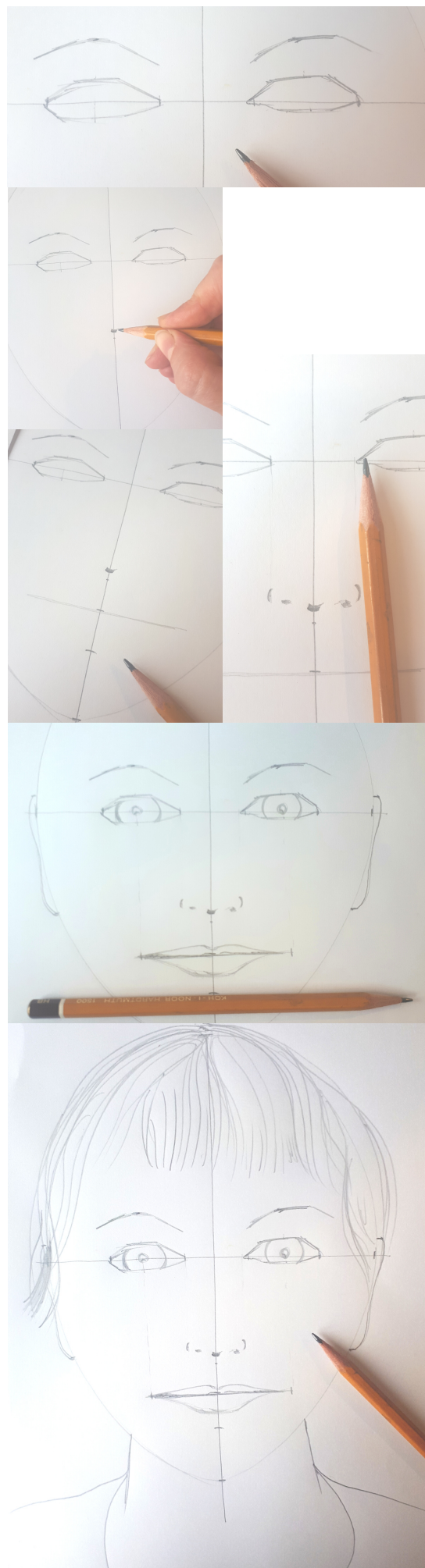
1. Start by drawing 2 lines which make a cross shape. This is called **The Axis**. It will help with the length and width of your face, so you can get the proportions right. Use your pencil very lightly, because we will want to rub out these lines later. The width (or eye line) is halfway down, between the top of the head and the chin.
2. The eye line is $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the face. You can use your pencil to help measure this accurately.
3. Use this cross to draw an egg shape. Remember, the wider part will be at the top of the head and narrower towards your chin. Look in the mirror or at your photo to see the shape of your head as everyone is different.



Step 3

Laying out the features

1. As a basic rule, you can fit 5 eye lengths across the width of the face. 2 actual eyes, the space between the eyes, the space between each eye and the side of the face are all equal. Look closely at your own face and see if this same rule applies. Lightly sketch in where your eyes should go. This only needs to be basic oval shapes at this stage. Next, we will sketch in where the eyebrows are. The top of the eyebrows sit about one eye height above the eyes, are yours in the same place?
2. To find the position of your nose, divide the space between the eyebrow line and the chin in half and put a mark with your pencil. Check that this is right for your nose. It may be longer or shorter.
3. Divide the space between the nose and chin into thirds to get: middle of lips, recess of chin. Keep checking your features, if not, you can change these measurements. **TIP** Using your pencil as a measuring tool will really help to get the proportions right.
4. The edges of the nose line up with the inner corner of each eye. Draw a very light line down from the eye and mark where the corner of your nose is. Does your nose lie in the same position, or is it slightly bigger, or smaller?
5. The corners of the mouth line up with the pupil of each eye. Mark in the pupil on your eye and draw a light line down to mark the corners of your mouth. Look at the shape of your lips and very lightly sketch them in too. Remember, the darkest line is in the middle where your lips meet, not the top or bottom edges.
6. Next, your ears, they are probably larger than you think. The edges of the ears line up with the bottom of the nose and upper eye. Are yours bigger, or smaller?
7. Hairline. Usually your hair extends up beyond the top of your head, look closely at your hair and lightly sketch it in. Pay attention to the direction which the hair flows, and whether it is straight or curly.
8. Don't forget your neck and shoulders. Mark where they are and lightly sketch them in. This will give some stability to your portrait, and stop it looking like a floating face.



Step 4

Adding unique details and building up tone

Now you can really study your photo and start to use your pencil slightly harder to create tone and also capture the detail of your face, rather than just generic shapes.

Look closely at all your features and gradually build up the tone to create light and shadow.



You can spend a long time working up the tone of all your features. This will add contrast and depth to your drawing and really make it pop.

Step 5

Coasters!

1. Use everything you have learnt to draw your self-portrait onto your coaster.
2. You will be adding some text to the top of the coasters so make sure you leave enough space for that.
3. Start by lightly marking out where you want your text and then draw your portrait in the space below. Start off lightly in case you make a mistake. **TIP** Don't rub out too much on the coaster as the fibres will start to wear away.
4. When you are happy, you could either leave as a pencil drawing, or go over in pen. If you have coloured pencils, paints or collage, you could use those too!



Step 6

Adding text

Don't forget to add some text about the place where you live.

Think of some positive adjectives which best describe the place where you live. For example:

Wonderful, great, magnificent, picturesque, special, tremendous, super, mega, restful, friendly, cheerful, tranquil, peaceful, outstanding, spectacular, colourful, vibrant, fun!

Here are some examples of coaster designs using different materials.

To watch a YouTube video of this How To sheet visit: <https://youtu.be/AUsDMTikJX4>

Have fun and be creative!



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