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Bugs, Birds, Butterflies, Nature Science
Curriculum Content Learning Through
Observation Drawing / Printmaking

What you need paper, pencil, and references
(photographs, reproductions of artists work's,
and/or specimens).

Drawing Basics, begin by looking, drawing is
seeing.

Draw and describe the parts of your subject. This
is the Jewel beetle; insects have 3 main body parts.
This beetle's abdomen is oval shaped and it's
largest part. The thorax is a rectangle with rounded
corners it is directly above the abdomen, a little
less than 1/2 the size of the abdomen. The head is a
roundish shape the smallest of the three body parts.
(I often ask students to describe the parts and draw
the shape as they speak.)

Continue with 3 pair of jointed cylinder or
tubular legs, wings, how many parts does the leg
have? What kind of foot do they have? How
many antennae and where are they attached to the
insect?

Observe describe and draw all parts in there
simplest shapes. Continue to relate proportions of
parts to each other. Finally create patterns that
suggest the textures of surfaces, fur, hair, or scales.
Draw the veins in the wings, the hair on the legs.

The drawn descriptions will align with the
required curriculum content and beyond.

Experienced students will refine base shapes to be
more specific to the form's details and may use
shading to suggest 3 dimensional forms.

Drawing any subject may begin by abstracting
simplifying the subjects forms into basic shapes
and comparing proportional / size relationships.

I often begin with a stick figure showing how to
start from a point of proficiency and expand from
there

