

4 Graphite, charcoal, and ink – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

Graphite

Charcoal

vine charcoal

compressed charcoal

Ink

Ink wash

Recall

- You have used a normal HB pencil and maybe a soft dark one.
- You have seen charcoal or a burnt stick make a very black mark.
- You know a pen cannot be erased like a pencil.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Graphite

Graphite pencils run from hard, light grades (9H) to soft, dark grades (9B). Hard grades hold a fine point; soft grades build dark tone fast.

Worked example. Use a hard H pencil for light construction lines and a soft 6B for the deepest shadows of a still life.

■ 2 Charcoal

Charcoal is fast and very black. Soft **vine charcoal** dusts off for easy starts; **compressed charcoal** is dark and permanent.

Worked example. Block a portrait loosely in vine charcoal, wipe it back, then commit the darks with compressed charcoal.

■ 3 Ink

Ink cannot be erased, so it builds decisiveness. **Ink wash** (watered-down ink) is layered light first, then darker.

Worked example. Draw a firm pen outline, then add pale washes over it, deepening only where the shadows are.

Watch out: Pressing a very soft pencil everywhere makes a shiny, greasy surface that photographs badly. Build darks in layers from a middle grade first.

Practice

2.1 Which is darker and softer: a 2H or a 6B pencil? [1]

2.2 What is the difference between vine and compressed charcoal? [2]

2.3 Why does working in ink build decisiveness? [2]

2.4 In what order do you build ink washes? [2]

2.5 Give one job suited to a hard pencil and one suited to a soft pencil. [3]
