

22. Landscape field sketching skills

Aim

This activity provides a suggested method to complete sketches or line drawings. Students should practise this skill **before** the fieldwork day.

Materials

- Copy of these instructions.
- Pencil and blank paper.
- Landscape picture(s) for practice.

Activities

General tips

1. Look carefully at the landscape or feature you want to sketch. Decide which features are important to note for the purpose of your report.
2. Consider the perspective of the landscape. The further away an object is, the smaller it will be shown on the paper.
3. Keep your sketch simple. Draw firm lines and include details of structures or features such as a house or tree in similar firm lines.

Positioning

1. To make the three-dimensional scene flat, look at it with one eye only.
2. Keep the same position until you have finished the sketch. Make sure you are sitting or standing comfortably.
3. Have a sheet of paper clipped to a board or other firm surface, and held in a convenient position for drawing.

The actual sketch

1. In your mind's eye, draw a square around the landscape you wish to include. Complete a rough large square on your page.
2. Imagine the landscape within your square in three sections.
 - The foreground: the area closest to you.
 - The middle ground: further away but most details are still clear.
 - The background: the area furthest from you, where detail is not clear. Lightly draw a line to show the boundaries of these three sections.
3. Draw in the main structural features of the landscape: e.g. mountains, foothills, rivers or roads.
4. Draw in any detail in the foreground: e.g. a tree, fence or track. Continue this step in the middle and background sections, using less detail as you proceed.
5. Add shading, particularly to vegetation, to make your sketch look more realistic.
6. Label and name important features on your sketch.
7. Give your sketch a title that indicates location and purpose. Add the date.

22. Photograph/sketching record sheet

Prepare a labelled line drawing or take photographs of your selected fieldwork site(s).

Heading:



Direction facing:

Approximate distance from site:

I drew this line drawing/took this photograph to show the following:

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