

Art & Drawing unit study

A homeschool curriculum with art at the center — technique, art history, and the math and science hiding inside drawing, for K-12 learners.

GRADE BANDS K-2 · 3-5 · 6-8 · 9-12

FULL GUIDE <https://handsdowneducation.com/homeschool/art>

How to use this planner

The six weeks below are sequenced from the guide's sample week: five weeks that each take one core subject through the topic, then a showcase week that turns the portfolio into a final product. Run each activity at the level your child is at (the grade band notes tell you how), keep the output, and by week six you have a portfolio that shows the unit end to end.

Pace is yours. A week here is three to five working sessions; a topic that is going well can take two calendar weeks, and one that has run dry can be closed early. Tick the box when a week's output is in the portfolio.

Six-week scope and sequence

Wk	Focus	Key activity	Portfolio output	Done
1	Reading & Writing through art & drawing	Read the story of a forgery scandal (Han van Meegeren's fake Vermeers), then write the argument for the prosecution — art history as evidence.	Portfolio entry: the week's reading & writing piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
2	Math through art & drawing	Construct one- and two-point perspective drawings with ruler and vanishing points — projective geometry taught the way Renaissance artists actually learned it.	Portfolio entry: the week's math piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
3	Science through art & drawing	Mix secondary colors from primaries in controlled steps and chart the results; then explain why screens use RGB but printers use CMYK.	Portfolio entry: the week's science piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
4	Social Studies through art & drawing	Pick one artwork as a historical document — Guernica, a Hokusai wave, an Egyptian tomb painting — and unpack what it records about its moment.	Portfolio entry: the week's social studies piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
5	Art through art & drawing	A five-day observational drawing streak of the same object in changing light, dated and kept — the fastest visible-progress exercise in art education.	Portfolio entry: the week's art piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
6	Showcase and review	Choose one final product that pulls the unit together — a presentation, an exhibit, a field guide or a short documentary — and give the week to making it. Finish with a portfolio review: lay every week's output on the table and let your child narrate what changed in what they know about art & drawing.	The final product plus a one-page unit summary in your child's words, filed with the portfolio.	☐

Running it at your child's level

K-2 focuses on materials confidence and seeing: shapes inside things, colors mixed rather than named, scissors and glue as fine-motor curriculum.

Advanced students add figure construction, digital tools, and a portfolio habit — plus art history essays that are indistinguishable from serious humanities coursework, because they are.

A sample week, subject by subject

Reading & Writing

Read the story of a forgery scandal (Han van Meegeren's fake Vermeers), then write the argument for the prosecution — art history as evidence.

Math

Construct one- and two-point perspective drawings with ruler and vanishing points — projective geometry taught the way Renaissance artists actually learned it.

Science

Mix secondary colors from primaries in controlled steps and chart the results; then explain why screens use RGB but printers use CMYK.

Social Studies

Pick one artwork as a historical document — Guernica, a Hokusai wave, an Egyptian tomb painting — and unpack what it records about its moment.

Art

A five-day observational drawing streak of the same object in changing light, dated and kept — the fastest visible-progress exercise in art education.

Common questions

I can't draw at all. Can I still teach this?

Yes — you are the curator, not the master. Technique comes from guided resources and daily practice; what you provide is structure, materials, and taking the work seriously.

Will colleges take an art-heavy transcript seriously?

An art-centered transcript with real math, science and humanities woven through it — plus a portfolio — is distinctive rather than deficient. Document the academic content inside the projects.

Digital or traditional first?

Traditional first, briefly: pencil control and observational accuracy transfer to digital, but the reverse is weaker. Introduce a tablet once basic drawing is comfortable.

Turn this into a full, standards-aligned curriculum

Generate a complete plan around art & drawing for your child's grade and pace — free to try, no account required.
<https://handsdowneducation.com/curriculum/generate>