



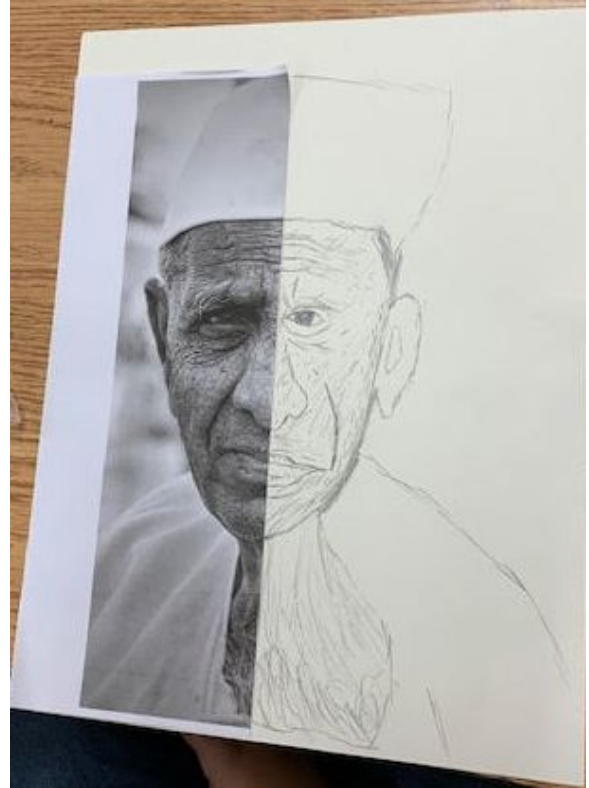
SONOMA VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART

Art Rewards The Student

ARTS@Home

Drawing Half a Portrait

Adapted for home from a lesson plan by Gary Griffith, Teaching Artist



Lesson Overview:

Project Description: Students will learn about human faces, symmetry, and proportion by cutting a photograph in half and using a pencil and a ruler to measure and mark important points around the face. Students will connect the dots and watch their complete faces emerge.

Medium or Technique: Graphite Drawing, Shading, Facial Proportions

Materials Needed: Images of Faces, Graphite Pencil, Ruler, Scissors, Glue Sticks or Paste, Drawing Paper, Marker and/or Colored Pencils,

Grade Level: 4 or 5 (but suitable for 3rd-8th graders who feel comfortable using a ruler)

CA Visual Arts Standards: Grade 4 and 5

4.2.1 Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

4.2.2 When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others.

5.2.2 Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools, and equipment.

5.8 Interpret art by analyzing characteristics of form and structure, contextual information, subject matter, visual elements, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.

Instructions:

Step 1: Find a face



Find an interesting photograph of a face that you would like to draw. You can cut it from a magazine or print one you find online. (Get permission first.) Try to find one that is looking straight at you and fills up the page as much as possible.

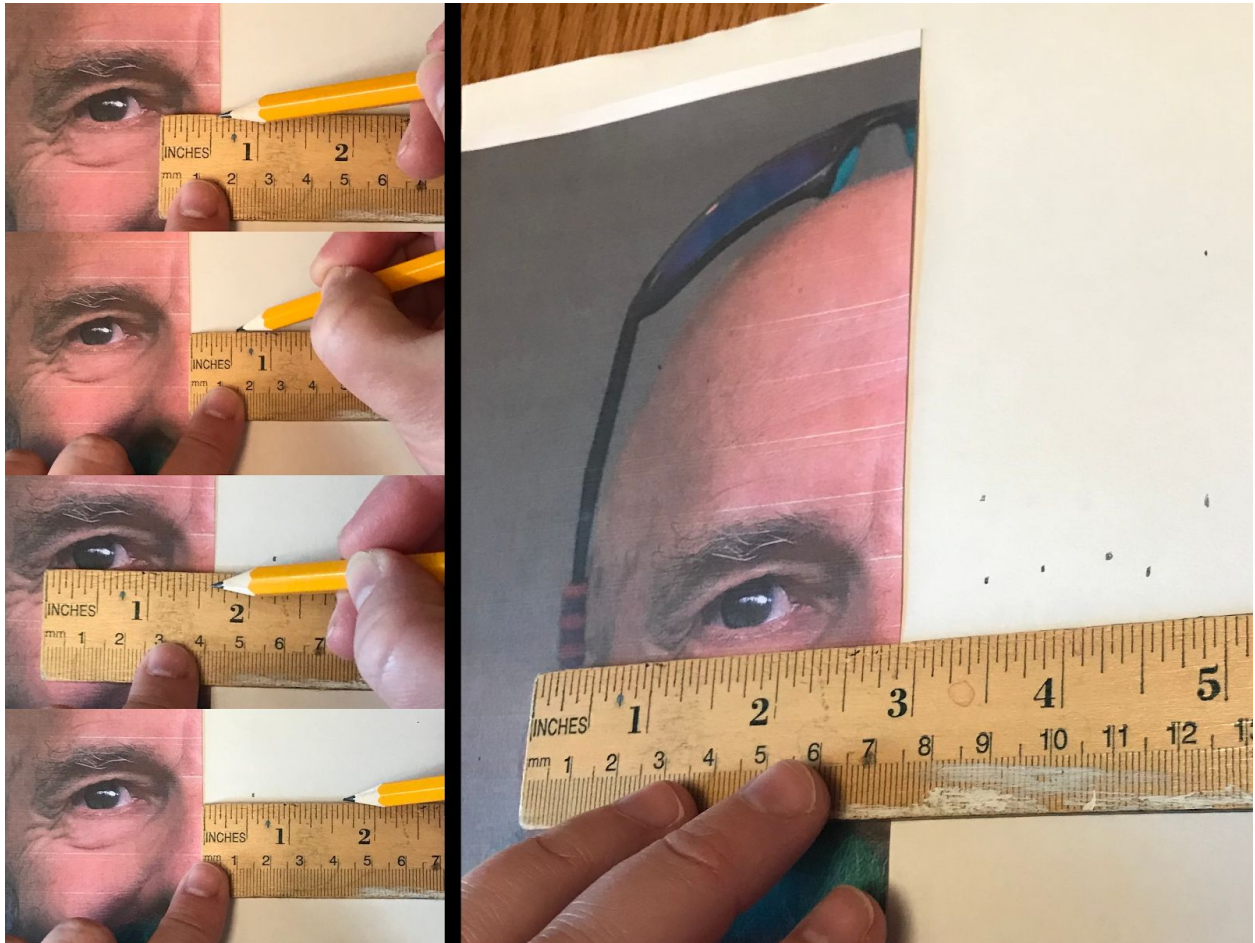
Step 2: Cut and glue



Use the center of the nose to help you find the **line of symmetry**. You can also find it by carefully folding the photograph in half. Now cut your photograph into two pieces, right down the middle. Use a glue stick or paste to attach one half of the face to your piece of blank paper. Leave plenty of room to finish your drawing.

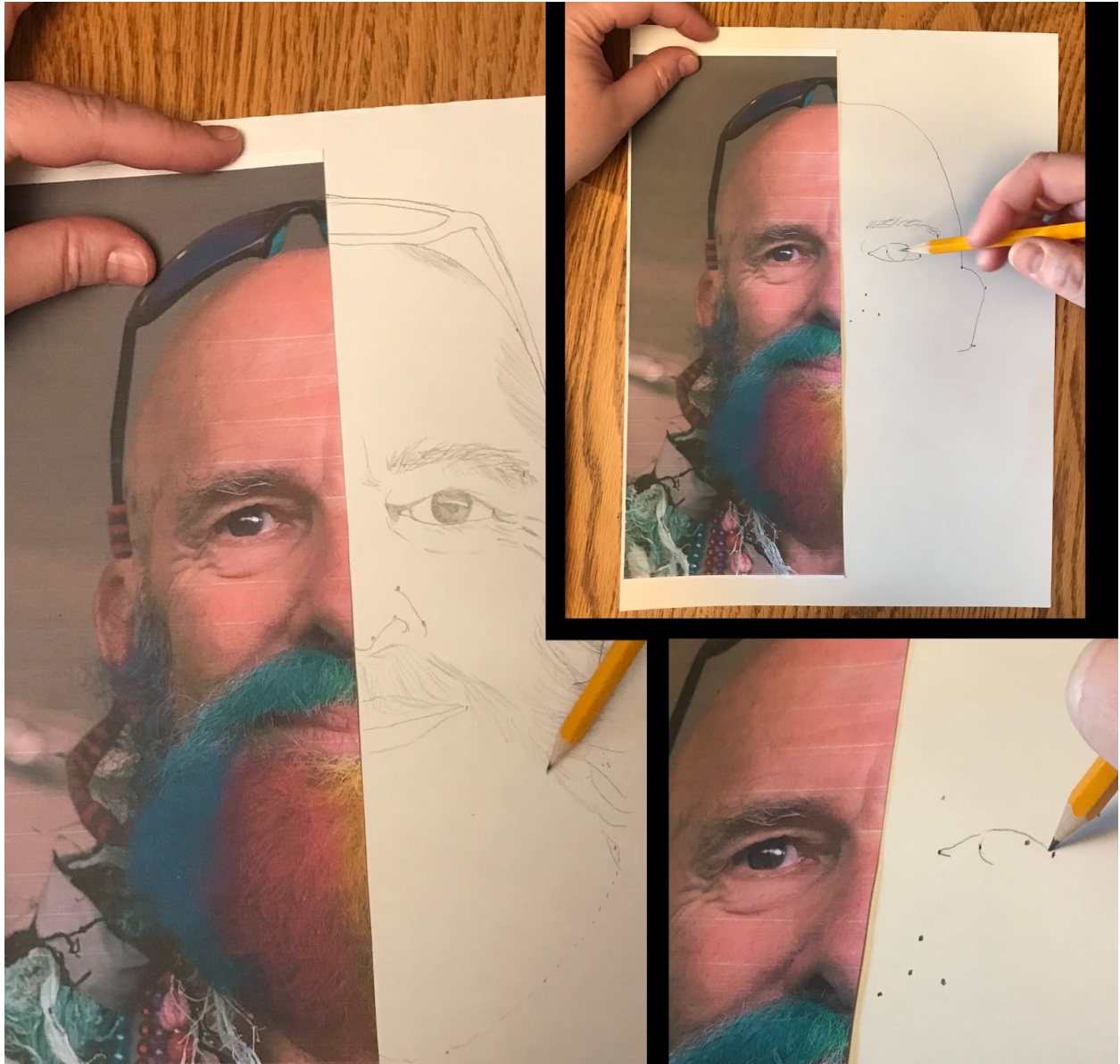
Line of symmetry: *an imaginary line that runs down the middle of something so that it's the same on both sides*

Step 3: Mark making



First, pick a starting point (such as the inside of the eye), and use your ruler to measure how far it is from the line of symmetry. Then measure the exact same distance on the other side of the line and mark it with a dot. Make sure to keep your ruler as straight as possible. Next, measure the distance to another point (such as the outside of the eye) and make another dot at the same distance away from the line of symmetry.

Step 4: Dot-to-dot



Continue to measure and mark dots all over your picture, including points around the nose, ears, mouth, chin, and hair. Once you have measured a good amount of dots, you have created your own dot-to-dot drawing! Now it is time to connect them. Once the dots are all connected, you will start to see your face emerge.

Step 5: Add details and find value



Once you have all your lines in, you can start adding smaller details and some shading. Try using the side of your pencil to fill in larger areas or go darker. Pay attention to **value** and how light or dark the different areas of your photograph and drawing are. Think about how you can fill in the empty space around your face and decide if you want to add some color.

Value: *How light or dark something is*

Photo credits:

Cover photograph: Student work, Sonoma, CA by Gary Griffith

Reference Image for step-by-step instructions: Rhododendrites / CC BY-SA

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