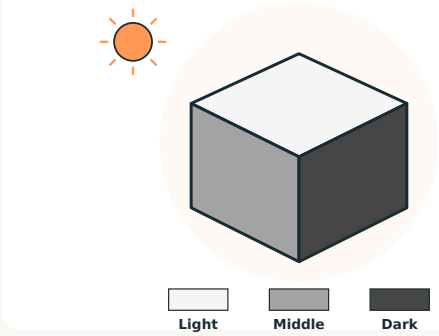
A COLORFUL ART

HAMSTER LESSON #0000009

Show depth with value.

Light, middle, and dark can make a flat drawing feel solid.



TRY IT TODAY

Observe the light. Shade three values.

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1. ❓ How can a pencil drawing look solid when the paper is flat?
2. 💆 Use value: how light or dark an area appears. Different values can suggest surfaces facing toward or away from a light.
3. ⏳ Gerrit van Honthorst’s painting Christ Crowned with Thorns, made about 1620, uses a candlelit scene. Getty highlights how light and dark colors suggest the light source and surrounding darkness.
4. 💡 Place a plain box near a lamp. Its faces may look different even when they are the same color. Draw the visible faces with light, middle, and dark shading.
5. 🔍 Value is different from hue, the name of a color. You can show depth using only one pencil; observe the light rather than making every face equally dark.
6. 🌎 Illustrators, photographers, and designers use differences in value to help people notice forms and important details. Clear light-dark differences can also make lettering easier to see.
7. 🎯 Draw three connected faces of a box. Leave one light, shade one medium, and shade one dark to match a real box under a lamp. Point out the light source and explain your choices.

References · Getty: Elements of Art · Getty: Art Vocabulary
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