

All About Me! *Watercolor Resist Self-Portrait*

Best for: grades 1 - 3

Description: create a self-portrait inspired by LEGO®s and featuring personality traits using crayons and watercolor paints.

Vocabulary: self-portrait, horizon

Required materials:

- watercolor papers
- crayons or oil pastels
- pencil
- watercolor paints
- paintbrush
- water container
- paper towels
- scrap paper

Optional materials:

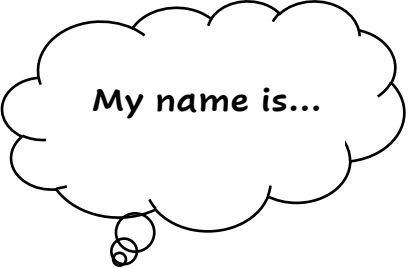
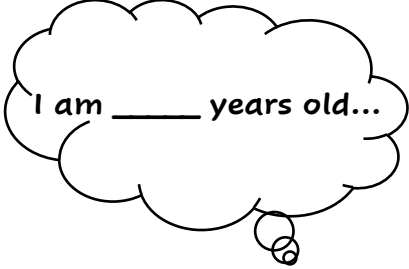




- permanent marker



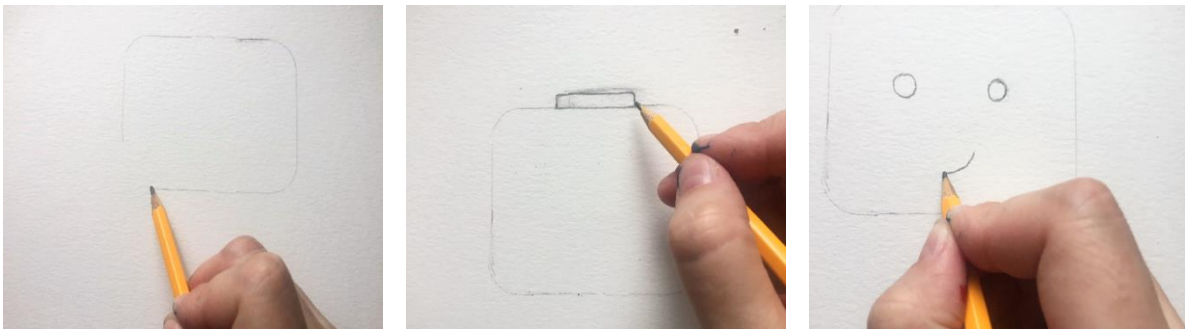
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Instructions

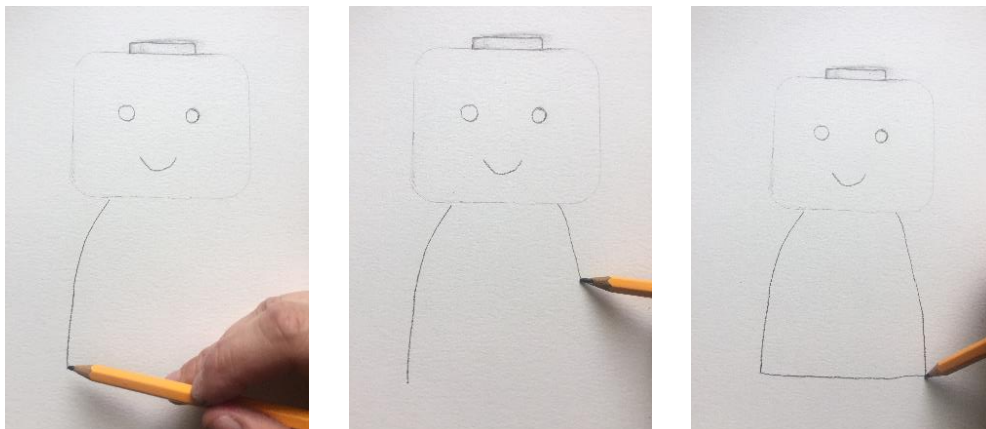
1. On scrap paper, answer these questions. You can write words or draw pictures instead!

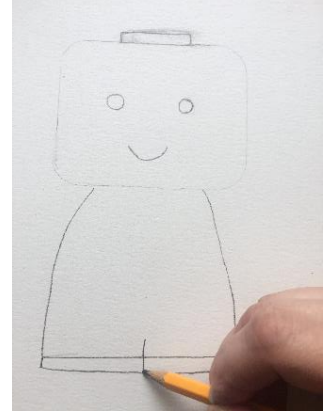
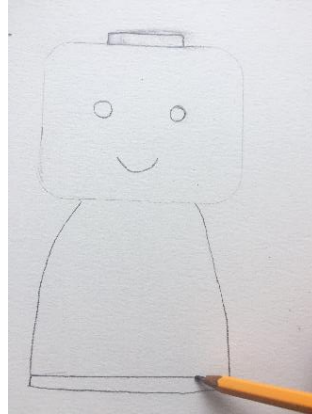
2. Next, begin your **self-portrait**, an artwork that features yourself. Draw a rectangle on watercolor paper. Round the corners instead of leaving them pointed. Draw a smaller rectangle on the top of the head. Draw two open circles for your eyes and add a smile.



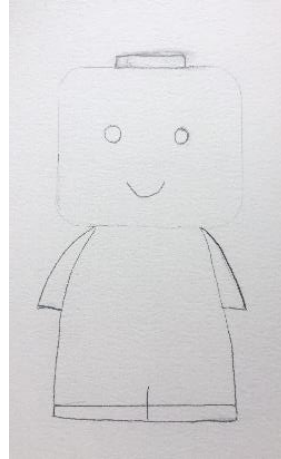
3. Next, draw a body below the head. Try to draw the body about the same size as the head (you can try measuring with fingers). Or the body can be a bit longer if it's for an adult. Curve the body's shape on each side out and down from the neck and then draw a straight line across the bottom to connect it.



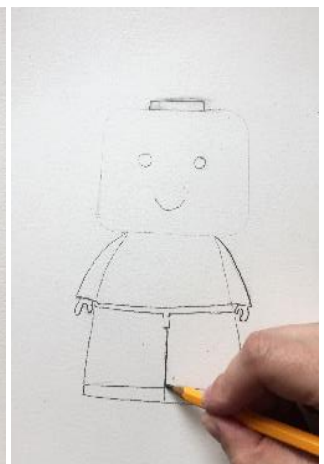
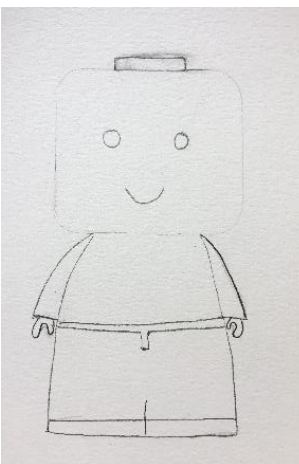
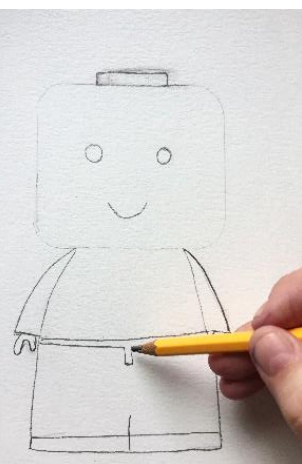
4. Draw a straight line above the bottom line for feet. Draw another short line down the bottom center for legs.
5. Starting where the head meets the body, draw a curved line outside of the body for the arm. The arm goes about halfway down the body. Repeat for the other side. Add hands at the ends of the arms.



Helpful hint: for real LEGO®-effect, shape hands with the letter “C”!

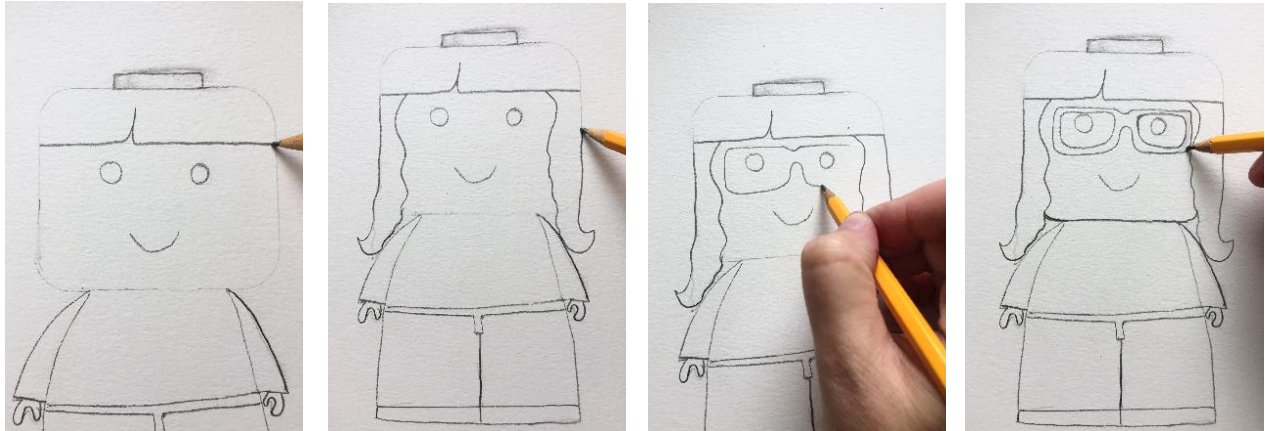


6. Draw a line across the middle of the body. This will be the waist. Draw a second line under it, pausing to make a small rectangle in the center. If wearing pants, add a middle line to separate legs up to the waist.



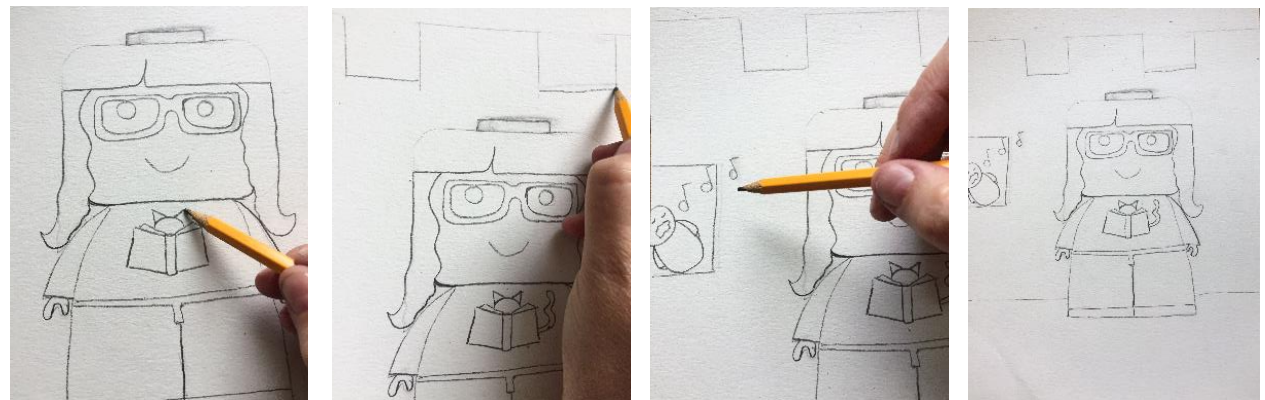
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7. Add hair or glasses if you wear them. Leave the LEGO® connector on top of your head.



8. Now comes the fun part! What else about your personality can you feature in this **self-portrait**? This example included a cat, a book and a castle for a background.

Helpful hint: remember to add a **horizon** line to show where your background ends.

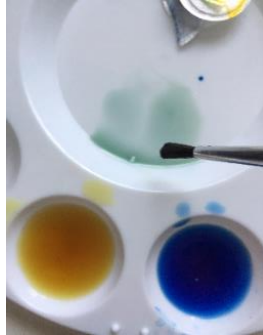


9. Trace over pencil lines with crayons or oil pastels. Oil pastel makes a thick line and will help contain the watercolor paint later. You can also use a thin marker for fine lines.



10. Paint watercolors into the newly defined areas of your artwork. Notice how the paint glides over the crayons / pastels.

Helpful hint: the more water on your brush, the lighter your colors will appear. Experiment with how much water you use. If you want an extra bright color, use less water and swirl the brush vigorously in the paint before applying to your artwork.



Helpful hint: mix colors on the plastic lid of your paint case or in a palette.

11. Let your LEGO® self-portrait dry fully. If needed, use oil pastels to add final details once it finishes drying.

Extensions

For extra challenge:

1. Try using only **primary** color paints (red, yellow and blue) to create all other colors.
2. Color large areas *almost* fully with crayons or pastels first, then paint over it with watercolor.



Web Resources

[Video: how to draw a LEGO® person](#)

[Video: how to make a watercolor resist with crayons](#)