

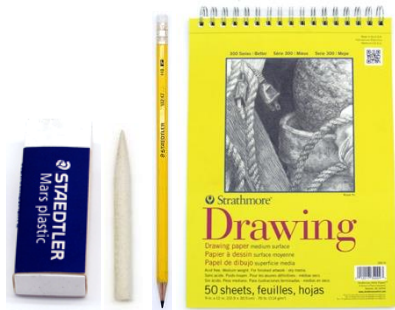
Landscapes & Trees

Learn to draw a tree structure with details through hatching, blending, stippling and scribbling techniques.

draw from the
COLLECTION
... at home!

Supplies

- pencil
- paper
- eraser
- tortillon (optional)



Step 1

Find a tree from an artwork or an outdoor setting (forest, backyard, etc.) to draw.

Helpful hint: select a tree standing alone to best observe and distinguish the structure and details (trunk, branches, and leaves).

Helpful hint: if drawing outside, take a picture of the tree as reference for later use if weather conditions change.



Lan Shen (Chinese, 17th century), *Mountains of Solitude*, 1663, ink on paper. Museum purchase with funds provided by the James F. Dicke Family, 1998.31

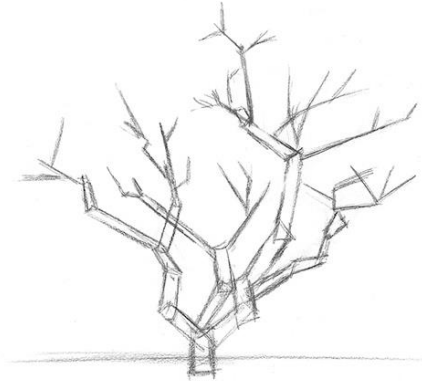


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Step 2

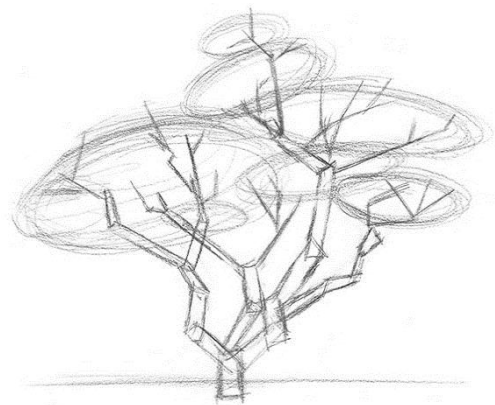
Draw the basic shapes of the trunk and branches using only simple geometric shapes and lines that most closely resemble each element (ex: rectangles for trunk, lines for smaller branches). Draw lightly. Allow shapes to overlap each other.

Note: branches may be partially obscured behind leaves. Estimate any hidden areas as best as possible.



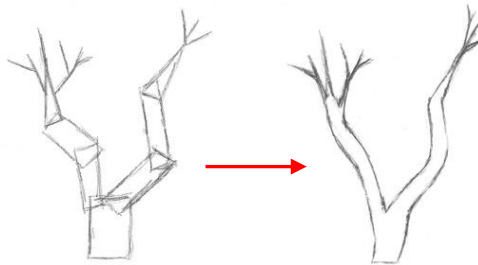
Step 3

Draw the overall basic shapes of the tree's crown using only simple geometric shapes that most closely resemble each general grouping of leaves (ex: circles, ovals). Draw lightly. Allow shapes to overlap each other.



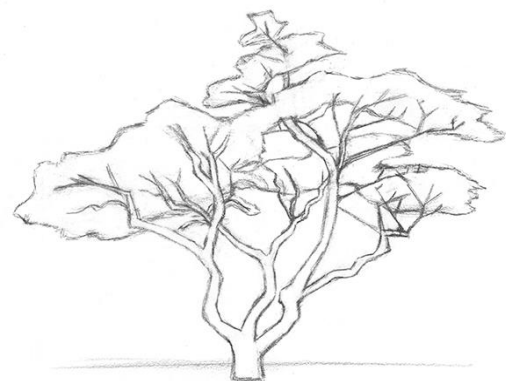
Step 4

Refine all trunk and branch shapes to best resemble the outer contour of those elements. Erase any remnants of the former shapes where needed. Draw lightly.



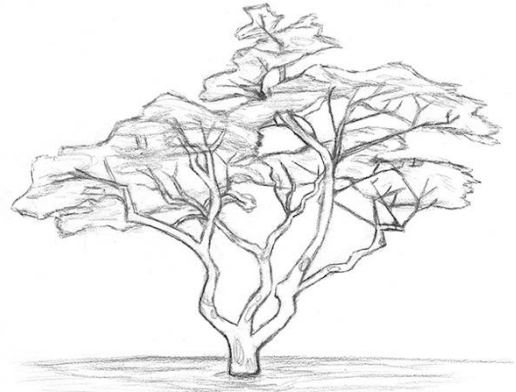
Step 5

Refine all leaf grouping and branch shapes to best resemble the outer contour of the tree's crown. Erase any remnants of the former shapes where needed. Draw lightly.



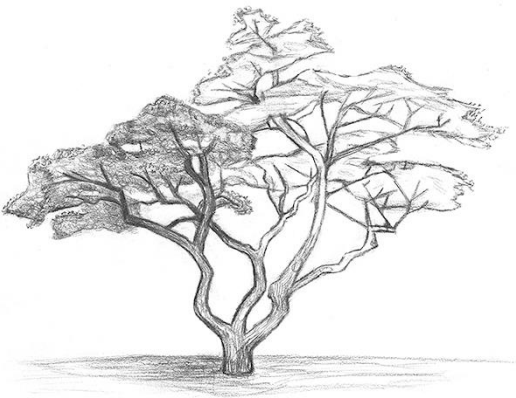
Step 6

Draw any internal defining details of the tree's trunk, branches or crown by adding general shapes (ex: circle for knots in trunk, ovals for lighter or darker groupings of leaves). Add negative spaces as well (ex: triangle for areas of air between branches or leaves). Draw lightly.



Step 7

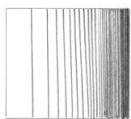
Refine drawing to best resemble the tree's details (ex: knots in trunk, shapes of negative space). Erase any remnants of the former shapes where needed.



Step 8

Add all remaining internal details and textures of the tree (ex: leaves, bark) utilizing the **hatching** technique of closely drawn, short parallel lines, the **scribbling** technique of loose, overlapping circular marks or the **stippling** technique of drawing numerous overlapping small dots.

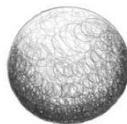
Helpful hint: draw leaves as a general texture rather than each leaf individually. Use whichever technique best describes the types of leaves observed (ex: stippling for tiny leaves, hatching for pine needles, etc.)



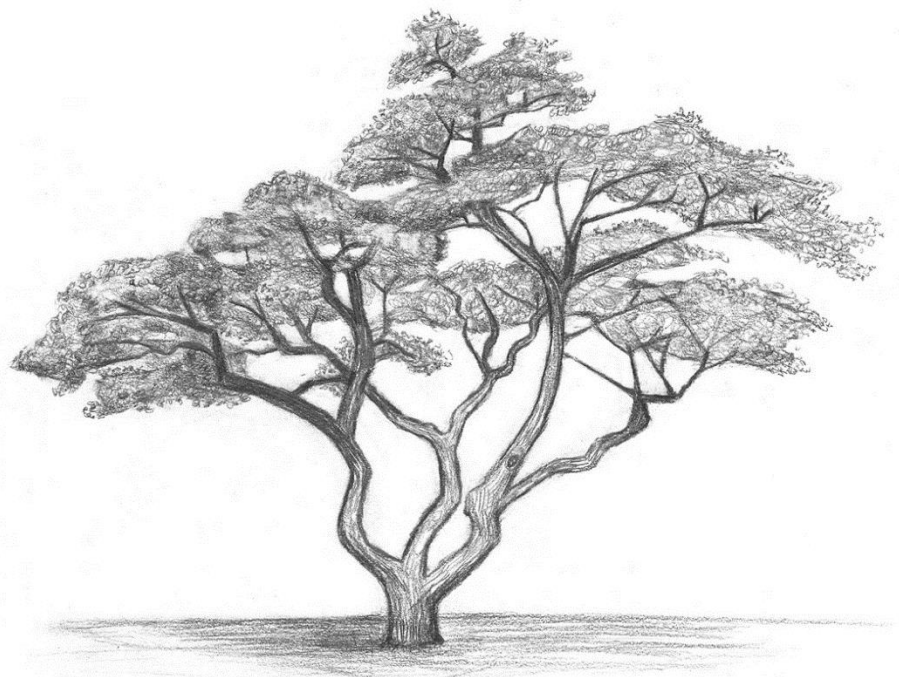
Hatching



Stippling



Scribbling



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Step 9

Create value, definition and shadows by continuing to overlap texture and mark making techniques. Use the **blending** technique by smearing pencil marks with a finger or tortillon (blending stump). Press harder with pencil for darker values or use a softer lead (6B). Use eraser to add highlights and lighten values where needed.



Blending

Helpful hint: for the **hatching** technique, the closer together the lines, the darker the value. For the **stippling** technique, the closer together the dots, the darker the value. For the **scribbling** technique, the smaller and closer together the circular marks, the darker the value.



Resources

[Video tutorial: Drawing a tree with pen and ink](#)

[Video tutorial: Drawing a tree with color pencils](#)

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... at home!

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