

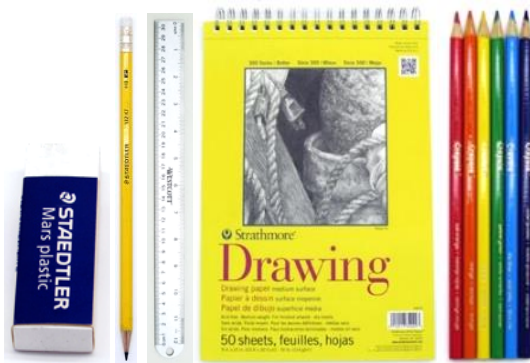
draw from the COLLECTION ... at home!

Vessel Design

Draw a bowl decorated with personal symbols, designs, and meanings.

Supplies:

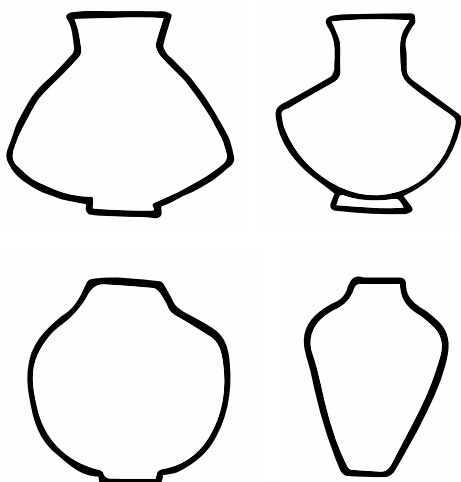
- pencil
- paper
- eraser
- ruler (optional)
- colored pencils (optional)



Artist unidentified (Nazca, Peru, early intermediate period, 200 BCE–600 CE), *Jar with Trophy Head Motif*, about 100-600 CE, earthenware and slip paint. Gift of the Honorable and Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, 1947.44

Step 1

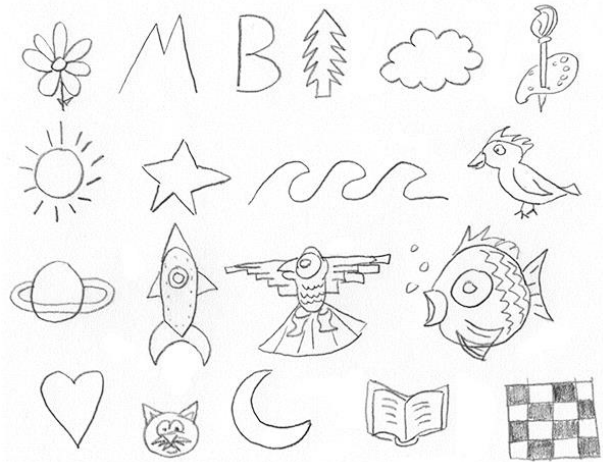
Think about how vessels can be shaped and the different elements that make them up (ex: lip, neck, body, foot, etc.). Experiment drawing just the shape, or outer contour, of various bowls or vessels (ex: draw one bowl with a wider body, the next with a taller lip, etc.). Create from your imagination or from life. Select the bowl shape that interests you the most.



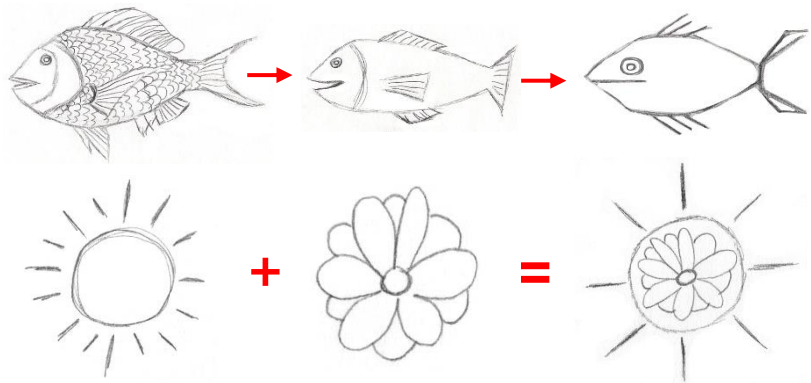
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Step 2

Think about the symbols and designs that decorate bowls you may have seen (ex: flowers, animals, letters, geometric patterns). Imagine and draw several symbols that are meaningful to you or tell a story about your family, culture, or personal interests (ex: a symbol to represent a parent, your name, a pet, favorite season, etc.). Symbols can be abstract or realistic, and can repeat to create patterns (ex: ocean waves and swimming fish to represent traveling overseas.). Select the top 3-5 designs that interest you the most.



Helpful hint: Use stylization and abstraction to keep designs simple. Symbols can also be combined to create new ones and meanings (ex: combine a sun and a flower to create a sunflower symbol).



Step 3

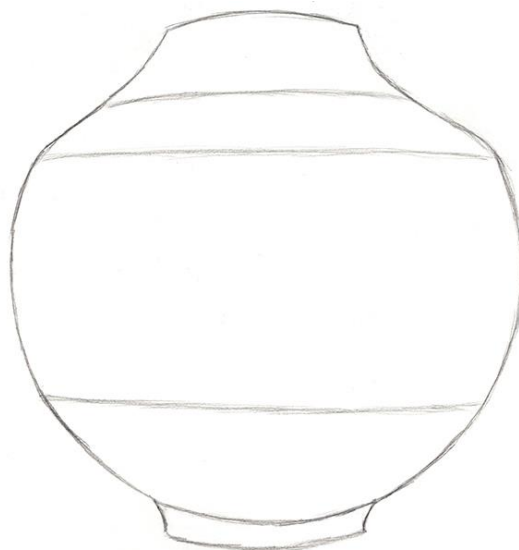
Make several small idea sketches of how you would like to arrange your selected designs and symbols on your selected bowl shape.

Helpful hint: lightly draw registers, or dividing lines for the neck, body, and foot of the bowl and keep designs inside these boundaries. You can further divide each register into subsections if desired.



Step 4

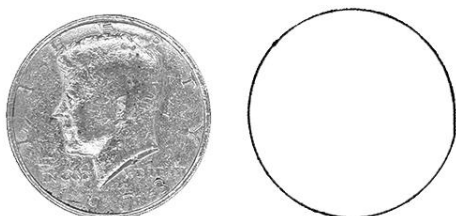
Select the sketch you like most and draw the full bowl shape at a larger size for a more detailed drawing. Draw lightly and erase as needed. Next, add light dividing lines for neck, body, and foot if desired.



Step 5

Lightly draw all the basic shapes of the designs and symbols you previously selected for your bowl.

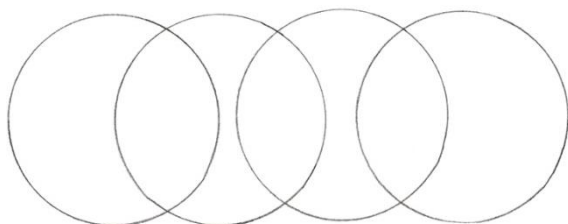
Helpful hint: for best shapes use a ruler or shape template (ex: trace around a coin for precise circles).



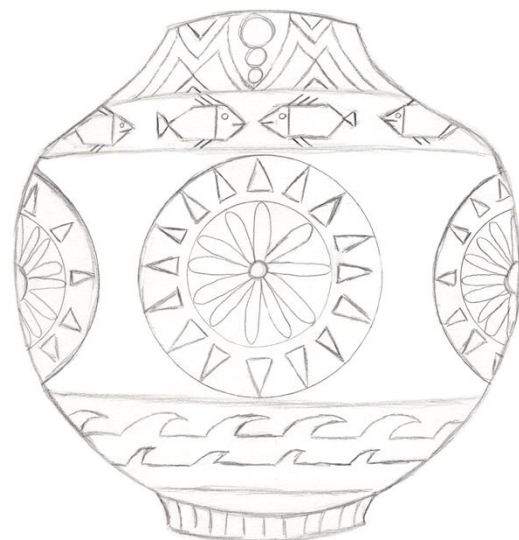
Step 6

Further refine all shapes and details.

Helpful hint: for consistent patterns, use a ruler or shape template to repeat shapes (ex: trace around a coin and overlap tracings to create a patterned line of precise circles).



Helpful hint: use a bowl, roll of tape, or drawing compass as a shape template for extra-large circles.



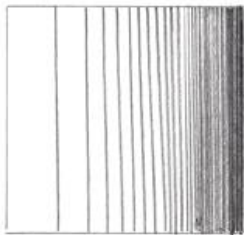
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Step 7

Add color or value to the bowl for details.

Helpful hint: keep colors and values limited (ex: use only 3 colors or 3 value tones such as black, white, and gray) for best visual effect.

Helpful hint: use the hatching technique of parallel lines to create different levels of value tone in your designs.



Resources

[Watch this for pattern inspiration](#)

[See a pottery vessel with Greek symbols and designs from DAI's collection](#)

[Watch an artist create and paint a bowl with Native American symbols and designs](#)

draw from the
COLLECTION
... at home!

Questions about or ideas for Draw from the Collection? Email edu@daytonart.org