ArtActivity

Drawing Insects with Organic Shapes and Lines

Draw an insect in three easy-to-follow steps.

Materials:

• Paper and pencil



Steps:

1. Examine the overall shape of your insect. Trace it with your finger and explore the edge of the shape. Does the shape remind you of something else? Use a red pencil to trace the organic shapes you can see.

2. Use a combination of organic shapes to draw a head, *thorax* (the middle section of the body of an insect, between the head and the abdomen, bearing the legs and wings) and *abdomen* (the posterior part of the body of an invertebrate animal).



3. Use a combination of lines to add legs, *antennae* (a pair of long, thin sensory appendages on the heads of insects, crustaceans, and other invertebrate animals), and *mandibles* (mouth parts used for holding or biting food).



Image: Detail of *Butterflies, Insects, and Currants,* about 1650–1655, Jan van Kessel (Flemish, 1612–1679). Bodycolor and brown ink, over metalpoint underdrawing on parchment, 5 1/8 x 6 11/16 in. The J. Paul Getty Museum, 92.GC.50.