

## DRAWING THE HUMAN FIGURE

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

VCR and television monitor to play the videotape

8"x 10" white paper 6 sheets per child

No. 2 pencil and eraser for each child (don't forget to have a pencil sharpener handy)

If possible, a color photo of work by Michelangelo

Activity sheets - copy a set for each child. One complete set is included with your guide.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- ◆ Learn the human body proportions.
- Study the anatomy of the skeleton, muscles, ligaments and tendons.
- ◆ Understand the relationship between science and drawing.
- Actually draw the human skeleton in a step by step process.
- Observe the skill of a young artist named Michelangelo and relate this artist's works to his place in history.

**LESSON SYNOPSIS:**

Doodle, the pencil, leads into a study of male and female anatomy, beginning with the proportions of the adult body. Seven and one-half heads in length from top to bottom. A superimposed head graphically shows this "rule" of drawing. Other tips on drawing the body are presented. The elbow is level with the belly button. Fingertips rest at mid thigh. Equations of body measure include: The distance from shoulder to elbow = The distance from elbow to wrist; The distance from hip to knee = The distance from knee to ankle. Now the program transitions to a study and drawing session of the human skeleton. (Pause the videotape for practice time.) The muscle groups are explored and their shapes are drawn over an image of the human body. The study then advances to complex compositions of joints, tendons and ligaments illustrated and animated in 3-D. Vocabulary words **contour** and **sketching** are defined. Then, students visit the virtual museum to see some of Michelangelo's famous works: sculptures La Pieta and David ; paintings for the Sistine Chapel. Finally, there is a quick review of what was covered during the video and a trip to the Kids Gallery.

**VOCABULARY WORDS USED IN THIS LESSON:**

**contour** - the outline or edge of a shape

**sketching** - a style of drawing that is quick, loose and has little detail

**fashion illustrator** - a person who draws clothing and models for magazines, brochures, etc.

**anatomy** - the body structure

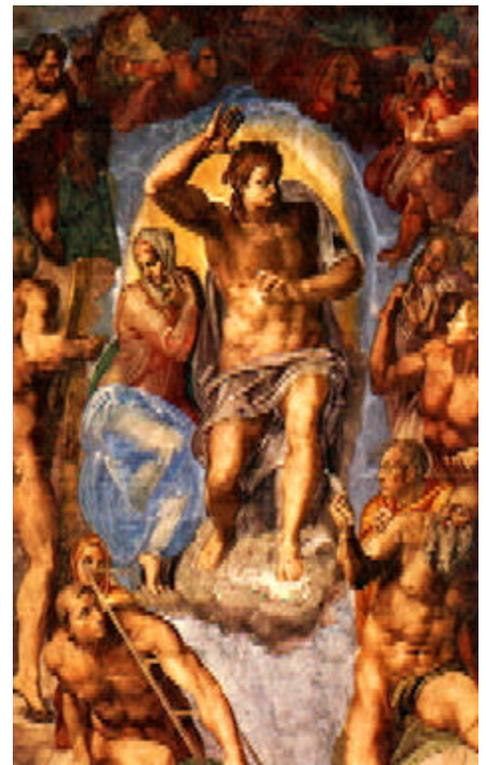
**highlights** - the part where the most light hits

**sculpture** - a three-dimensional work of art

**Sistine Chapel** - part of the Vatican Palace, Vatican City located in Rome, Italy

**proportion** - size relationships

**fresco** - an Italian word that means painting directly on a wall of fresh plaster



**PLEASE**

**NOTE:** This lesson can be approached in one of two ways. You may watch the program in its entirety without stopping for practice, and then go back and start at the beginning, pausing this time for practice sessions.

Or, you may stop the tape at suggested intervals and give your students time to practice immediately.

**BACKGROUND FOR TEACHER:**

Michelangelo was born in 1475 in the small village of Caprese. He was one of the most inspired creators in the history of art and was a potent force in the Italian High Renaissance. He is best known for painting the Sistine Chapel, and his sculptures La Pieta and David.



**SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHER PREPARATION:**

Prior to teaching this module, "Drawing the Human Figure", take a few moments to read the following suggestions to help you and your students benefit the most from this enjoyable video presentation.

- Preview the videotape before showing it to your students. It runs approximately 15 minutes.
- Familiarize yourself with Doodle and his friends, so you will be able to identify them and answer any questions your students may have about them.
- Notice the sequence of events in this lesson, and the places you will want to stop the tape to give your young artists a chance to practice their new skills.
- Drop by the library and read up on Michelangelo. Check out a book with color photos of artwork by Michelangelo.
- Arrange to have a VCR and television monitor in your classroom the day you plan to show the video.

- Write vocabulary words and their definitions on the blackboard or a flip chart prior to class.
- Have all materials copied and ready to hand out to your students just prior to viewing the program.

**LESSON OUTLINE:**

**Step1: Discussion with students prior to watching videotape**

Time: Approx. 15 minutes

- Show students the "Doodle!" poster and reintroduce them to the characters.
- Briefly introduce Michelangelo so that they can be watching for him in the lesson.
- Show your students photos of the work of Michelangelo.
- Looking at the photos of Michelangelo's paintings, ask your students to notice the use of dark and light in his paintings.
- Introduce the new vocabulary words. Ask them questions from their previous art lesson with Doodle, "Painting". For instance, ask who remembers what cavemen used to draw on cave walls. This is a great opportunity to reinforce that lesson.
- Ask students if they know what the word proportion means?

*Proportion has to do with parts of a whole. Really the relationships between parts of a whole.*

- The adult human body is about seven and one half "head" measurements tall. The Doodle video will show us how this measurement system works. Look for several art proportion equations, too. These tips will help you to draw people more realistically. You will see many terms from your science studies as the program explores the human anatomy in 3-D animated detail. The museum trip will show us several of the brilliant artist and

sculptor, Michelangelo Buonarroti's (write on board) most famous works. He is Italian and his name is pronounced (mee chel an jel o bwoe na rot tee). He is usually known by just his first name.



**Step 2: During the Video**

Time: Approx. 25-30 minutes

- ◆ During the video lesson, watch the program with your students.
- ◆ Pause the tape throughout the drawing the human skeleton exercise to allow students to draw along with Doodle or you can view straight through and rewind. (Program approx. 15 minutes.)

**Step 3: Discussion following the video program**

Time: Approx. 10 minutes

- ◆ What kind of an artist is Michelangelo?
- ◆ Name some of Michelangelo's works.
- ◆ Which of Michelangelo's works do the students like the most? Why?
- ◆ Who can tell me the definition of \_\_\_\_\_?

(You choose some vocabulary words)

**Step 4: Activities following the video lesson**

Time: Approx. 15 minutes

- ◆ Pass out activity sheet **5-A** to practice the proportions. (Math and measure connection: history of how the original ruler and standards of measure came about) Use all the drawing tips learned in the program.
- ◆ Pass out activity sheet **5-B** to label and complete the skeleton.
- ◆ Use a merchandise catalog or fashion magazine to locate pictures of models, both men and women. Tear out the pages and then carefully cut each picture in half (teachers can use a paper cutter). Students can draw the missing half of each model with pencil. Magazine models can also be great subjects for drawing because they don't move!
- ◆ **Silhouette drawing:** Using a strong direct light source on one side of the subject's head, tape paper to the wall on the other side to draw the exact shadow or contour outline of this subject. The outline can then be cut out on the line to become a silhouette (the instant picture before the camera was invented!)
- ◆ Draw on paper taped to the underside of desks or tables to experience Michelangelo's difficulties painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. (He worked four years on this one project!)



**WRITING ASSIGNMENT:**

- ◆ Describe an object in very precise visual detail. Remember to look for the essential information and then explore further to find the specifics. Imagine you are writing an exact description for someone who is not here now. The more details that are included helps identify this specific object as the one you are describing. Great additional learning experience is to use real objects, and students can guess which description matches the objects.
- ◆ Have students look up the Doodle web site on a computer. The address is:  
**[www.doodlestudio.com](http://www.doodlestudio.com)**

**ACTIVITY SHEETS FOR  
MODULE 5**

- 5-A Proportion
- 5-B Skeleton

**CONCLUSION:**

You may want to give your students additional class time to work on their paintings. When their work is complete, display it prominently in your classroom.

If you are interested in introducing students to related topics, here are a few suggestions:

**Geography:** Study the country of Italy, where Michelangelo was born.

**Art:** Take a look at other works by Michelangelo.

Now you are ready to go to the 6th educational module in this series. It is called "Comic Books".



# DOODLE!

MODULE #5

5-A

## ACTIVITY SHEET

### Drawing the Human Figure

Instructions....

Draw the figure in correct proportion using the head measurements as a guide. Don't draw a lot of detail, just focus on the basic structure.

Remember, girls have the same basic proportions as boys, so draw both!



The elbows should be even with the navel, and the fingers should reach to the middle of the thighs.





# DOODLE!

MODULE #5

5-B

## ACTIVITY SHEET

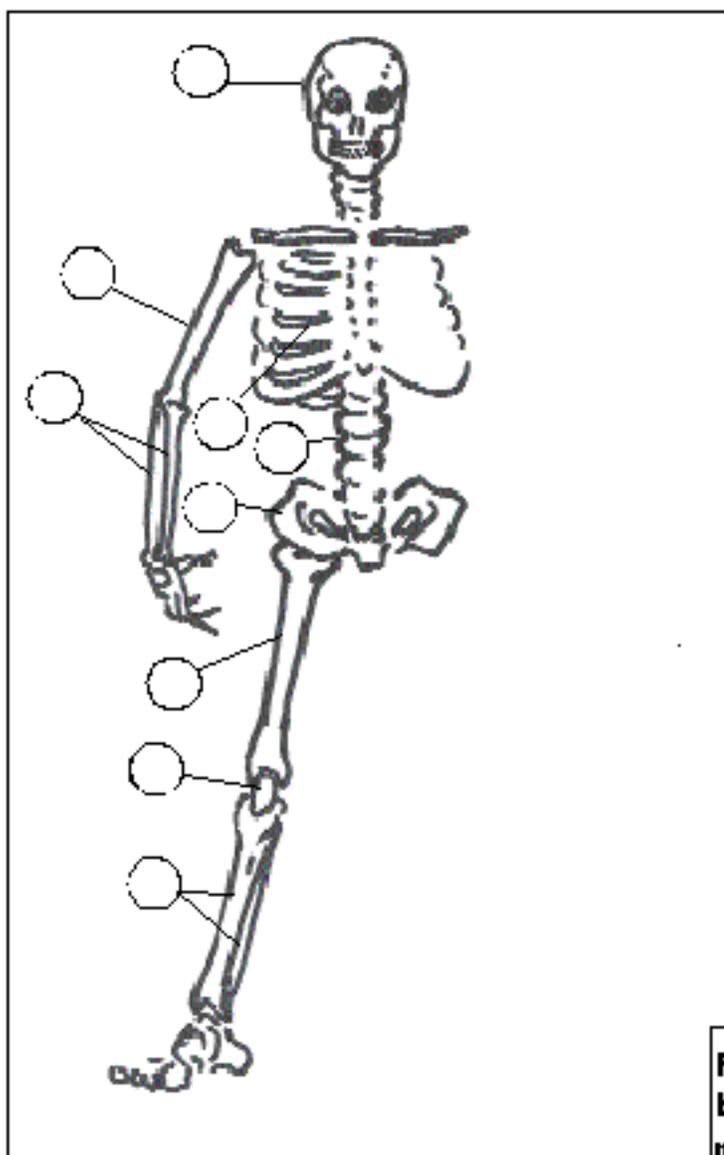
### Drawing the Human Figure



*Instructions...*

**Label the bones with the correct letter.**

- A) Humerus
- B) Ribcage
- C) Hip
- D) Femur
- E) Spine
- F) Skull
- G) Radius/Ulna
- H) Tibia/Fibula
- I) Kneecap



*Instructions...*

**Finish the skeleton by drawing the missing bones. Don't forget your proportions!**