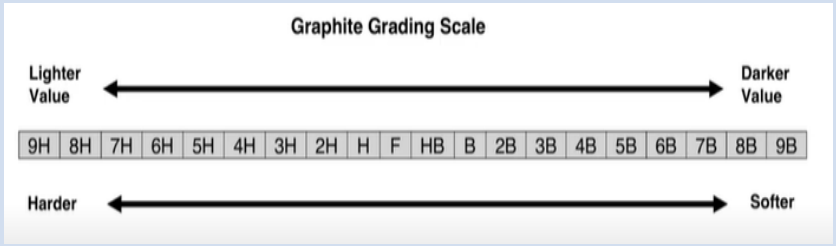
Pencil Sketching | Art | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2026-27

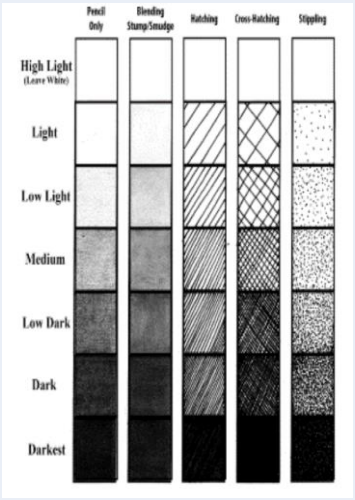
National Curriculum Art & Design - Knowledge

- Develop techniques, including control and use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.
- Create sketch books to record observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.
- Improve mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials (for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay).
- Learn about great artists, architects and designers in history.

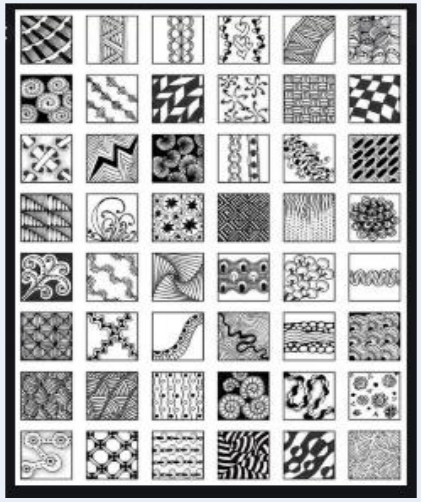
Key Learning



Value Scales



Coverage Techniques



Zentangle techniques

Vocabulary

Graphite: a naturally occurring form of the element carbon; often used in pencils.
Pencil grade: tells you how light/hard and dark/soft a graphite pencil is.
H grade: stands for hardness; H pencils are harder and produce light lines because they contain more filler and less graphite.
B grade: stands for blackness; B pencils make a darker mark because they're softer and don't contain as much filler.
Pencil Value Scale: a system of organising pencil grades from white to black; used by artists to create gradations and achieve depth in their drawings.
Gradation: a series of successive changes, stages or degrees.
Coverage: the area that can be covered by a substance.
Smudging: to make blurred or indistinct by rubbing.
Hatching: shading with closely drawn parallel lines.
Cross-hatching: shading with intersecting sets of parallel lines.
Stippling: the process of drawing using numerous small dots or specks.
Zentangle: a method of drawing structured patterns on small tiles with simple shapes.

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Key Learning: Create own artwork using pencil in the style of Zentangle.	
1	**Value Scale and Pencil Grades.** Learn that the numbers and letters denoted at the top of a pencil have certain meaning: H stands for 'hardness' and B for 'blackness'. Understand why this is and explain pros and cons of each type. Link to HB pencils used generally day-to-day. Complete own value scale, annotating to show learning and shading to create a progression scale for each different pencil grade.
2	**Coverage Techniques.** Recap techniques for coverage previously learned in oil pastel and chalk pastel units. Apply same principles to experiment creating each technique with different pencil grade. Comment upon their effectiveness.
3	**Zentangle.** Learn about the drawing technique known as 'Zentangle'. 'Zen' means xxx and 'Tangle' means xxx. Complete 5 x 3 grid to experiment with different patterns and pencil grade then comment upon their effectiveness.
4 & 5	**Create own Zentangle inspired artwork using pencil.** Share top tips for using different pencil grades as an art medium, drawing on experience and learning to give examples. Say which techniques for coverage would be best to create structured patterns. Provide feedback on patterns created during experimentation last lesson. Consider overall composition and its components, making conscious choices. Sketch composition boundaries then add patterns using chosen pencil grades to complete final piece.