



# DRAW ANIMALS

## Art Projects for Kids



# ART PROJECTS FOR KIDS



Kathy Barbro, Art Teacher

## Looking for some fun drawing projects for your students?

That's great! As you probably already know, there are more than a few resources to choose from these days.

In addition to printed books, there are a ton of drawing websites with sketches and videos and diagrams that ALL say they can teach your kids how to draw.

Everything from armadillos to zebras ... and about a *gazillion* things in between.

Some of those online collections are large, some are small, and some look like they were designed by committee, given their random styles and subject matter. The point is there's a LOT to sort through, especially given that many places just throw stuff up to see what sticks.

And so, dear teacher, let me save you a whole bunch of time and frustration and share why I think my tutorials are the ones that will work best for your students.

Simply stated, it's because:

### 1. They follow a consistent format.

Every drawing tutorial is broken down into nine easy steps, so students can clearly see how the drawing starts and makes a logical progression to the end. Following directions is key to so many aspects of learning, whether it's solving a math problem, doing a science experiment, or even building a Lego set. It just *cannot* be undervalued or overpracticed.

### 2. They are based on real classroom experience.

I have actually tried out *hundreds* of drawing ideas with my classroom students over many, many years, and I couldn't help but see some patterns start to emerge. For instance, symmetrical projects tended to fare much better than irregular curvy ones. It took time and patience to find out what worked best, but seeing lots of happy and proud students as a result was worth every minute.

### 3. Successful projects increase self-confidence and lead to *more drawing*.

It's pretty simple, if children judge themselves to be good (or at least competent) at drawing, they are much more likely to continue and want to do more. More drawing leads to building more skills, and so and so on.

I believe that if you help students take the mystery out of drawing during their formative years (especially in elementary school) it just might open all kinds of doors for them later on. Whether that interest carries them into future careers, or just remains a hobby, both options are just as valuable, and both can be just as rewarding.

— Kathy Barbro, *founder of ArtProjectsforKids.org*

# FAQ about Drawing

## 1. Isn't drawing just one of those things that some have and some don't?

Not at all. You don't hear people say, "You can either ride a bike or you can't." Drawing is a skill, and like all skills, takes practice. Children get better at riding bikes with practice, and the same is true for drawing. It's true that some seem to be born with more ability than others, but even the naturally gifted need to work at it if they want to improve.

## 2. Art takes extra time, how in the world can I fit it in a busy school day?

That's where drawing can help you out and do some double duty. In fact, students probably already have all the supplies they need at their desk. Learning about bats? Have them draw their own, including a habitat. Studying the rainforest? Then a cute toucan drawing might be a fun. Learning about US symbols? Then how about a bald eagle? Lots of possibilities!

## 3. Won't students be missing out on "real" art lessons by just *drawing*?

No, students can still learn SO much about art while they draw, even if they just focus on animals. For instance, drawing small details in the background will teach them about perspective, creases in skin about shading, fuzzy and furry lines about texture, intensity of coloring about value, and more. Drawing is often the first part of making *many* kinds of art, so building a solid foundation will always be helpful.

## 4. How do you get such bright colors on your sample drawings? Do you use extra fancy supplies or something?

No, I use an average black marker for tracing, and then two different brands of crayons for coloring, both priced well for any school budget. The great thing about drawing is that it takes almost NO money to make some really lovely works of art.

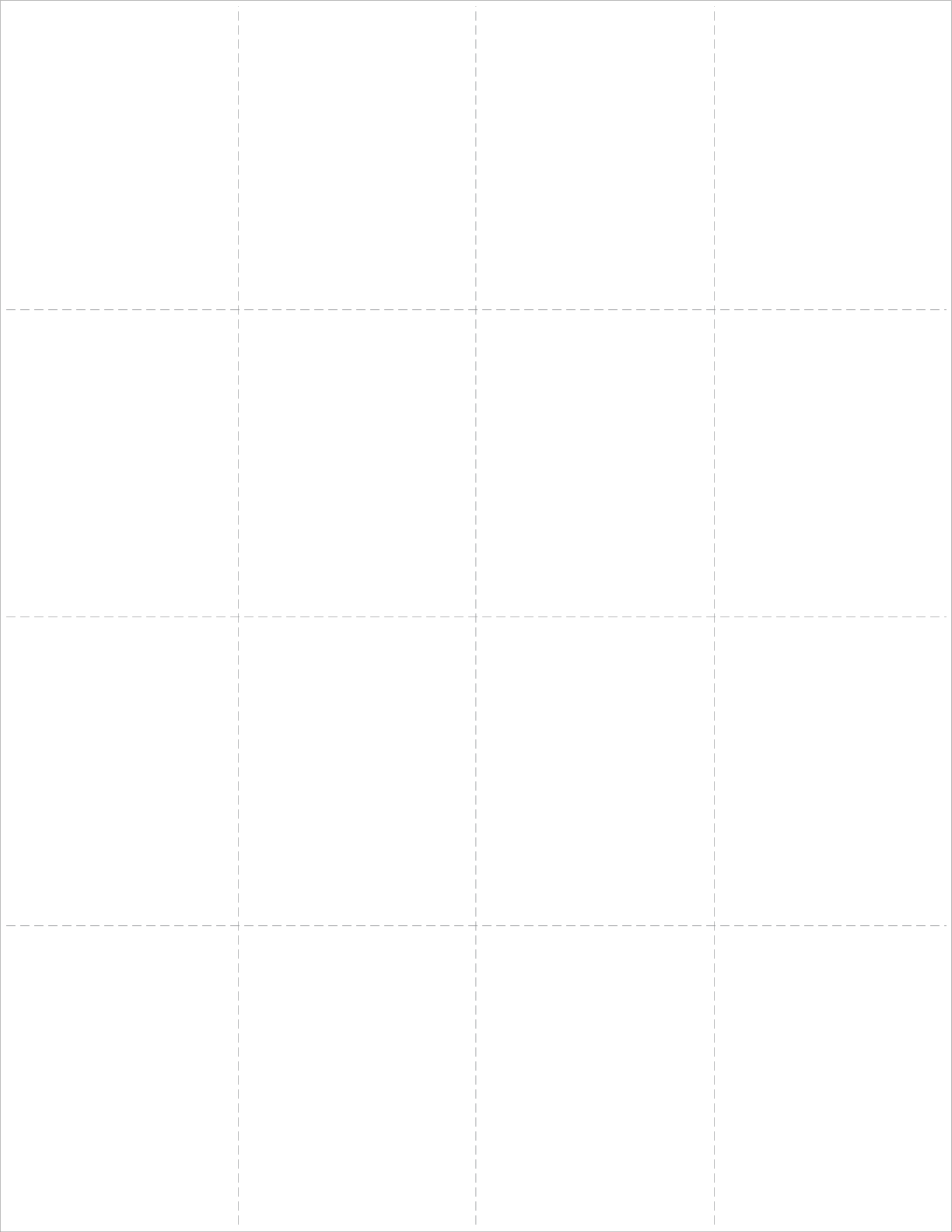
My specific supply favorites?

- Drawing paper, any brand (Copy paper works in a pinch, but will tear and fuzz if you erase too much)
- Black marker, medium fine tip, any brand
- Crayola® Crayons, 64 pack to get lots of color options
- Prang® Crayons, 24 pack, great for more skin colors and are eco-friendly

## 5. Why do all your tutorials have grid lines in the background?

One of the best aids to help students gauge where to first place their lines on a sheet of paper, is to for them to have an idea of where the center of the paper is. Center lines give a reference point and can really help them draw more proportionally, and avoid the tendency to draw extra small. Folding the paper before drawing works great, but I have also included a light grid template on the next two pages for those who feel a printed paper might fare better. It was my choice for large classes with young students and not many aids to help get everyone past that first step.







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This panel is the right side for the binder cover. Trim and tape to previous page.



# Art Projects for Kids

Spine art for large size binders



# Art Projects for Kids

Spine art for medium size binders