

Shade the Forms of an Ear

Sketch five basic sections of an ear and accentuate their forms with crosshatching graduations

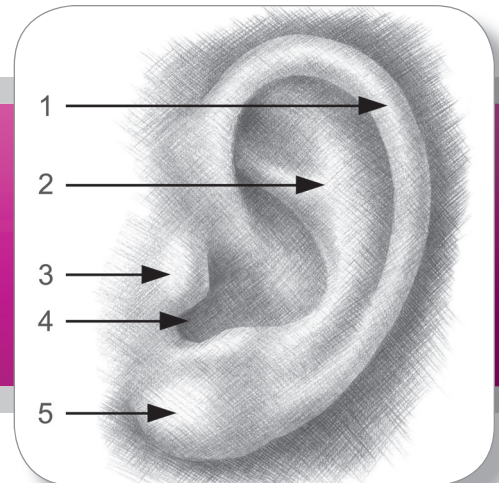


Figure 1

Resource: Module 3.1 Introduction to Shading

Supplies: paper, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, and 6B pencils, pencil sharpener, sandpaper block, vinyl and kneaded erasers

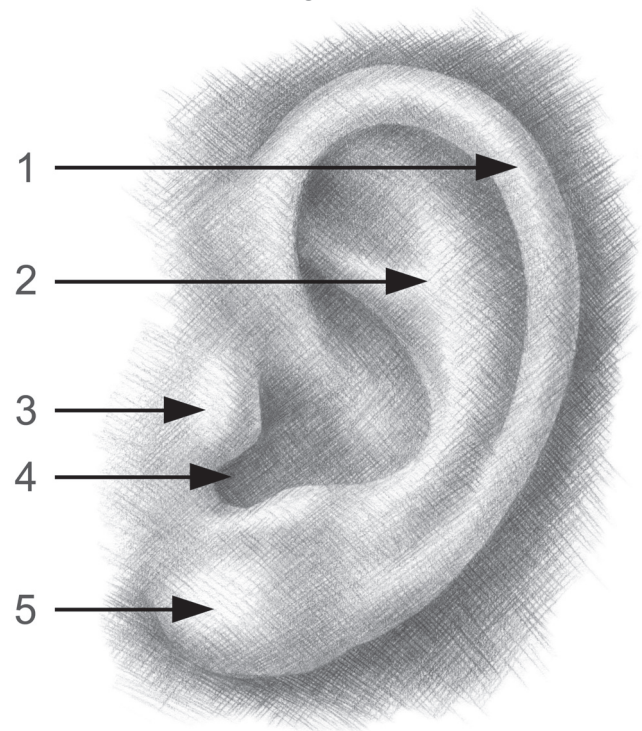
This activity has three sections:

- Identify Five Parts of an Ear
- Sketch and Outline an Ear
- Shade Ear Forms

Identify Five Parts of an Ear

Drawing an ear is less intimidating when you can identify its five basic parts (Figure 1):

- 1. Outer rim:** the long form down the outside edge that meets up with the earlobe at the lower section.
- 2. Inner rim:** the long form inside the ear that circles the rear of the opening to the ear canal.
- 3. Small lobe:** the small, round form over the frontal section of the opening to the ear canal that joins the earlobe at the front of the ear (where the ear joins the face).
- 4. Ear canal:** the opening to the inner ear.
- 5. Earlobe:** the soft, fleshy, lower part of the ear.



Sketch and Outline an Ear

1. Sketch an oval to represent the basic shape of an ear (Figure 2).

The upper section is somewhat tilted to the right, and is a little wider than the lower section. As you sketch each part, constantly check the proportions of your sketch and modify if needed.

Figure 2

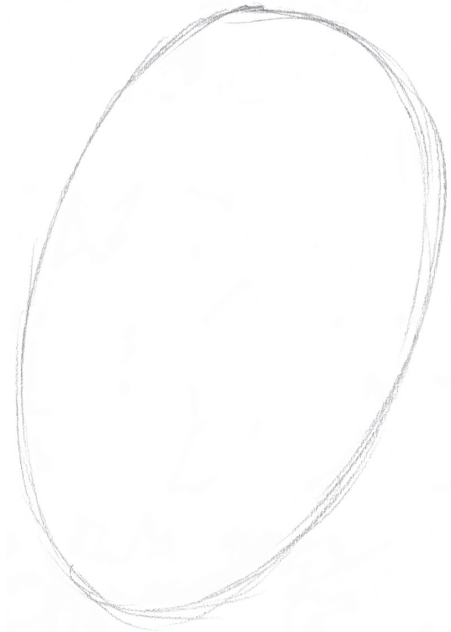


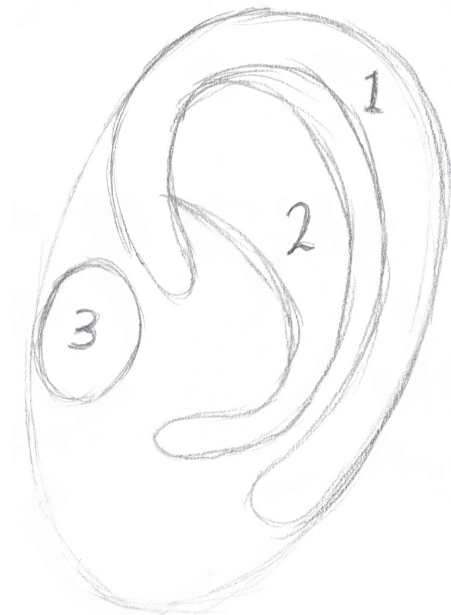
Figure 3



2. Outline the shape of the outer rim (Figure 3).

The snake-like shape of the outer rim (1) begins inside the oval, then extends up toward the right, and finally curves downward along the outside edge of the ear.

Figure 4

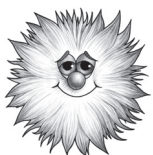


3. Outline a comma shape (2) for the inner rim (Figure 4).

This shape is wider at the top, and becomes narrower as it curves to the left at the bottom.

4. Sketch the outline of a small oval to represent the small lobe (3).

5. Add a tiny oval (4) to mark the opening of the ear canal (Figure 5).



As an Aside

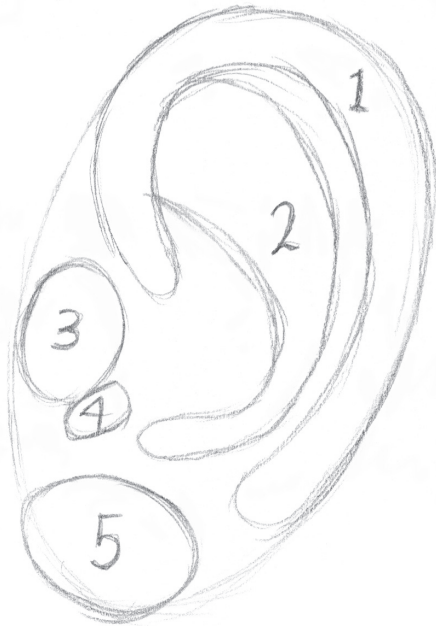
Other than differences in size, the ears of adults and children are very similar. Yet, if you look closely at individual ears, you see tons of variations. Some experts even claim that ears are as unique to each individual as fingerprints.



Tip!

To create different values, vary the density of the individual shading lines and the pressure used in holding different grades of pencils.

Figure 5



6. Outline a large, round shape as the earlobe (5).
7. Pat your sketch with a kneaded eraser until you can barely see the lines.
8. Redraw a few parts of the ear with neat lines (Figure 6).

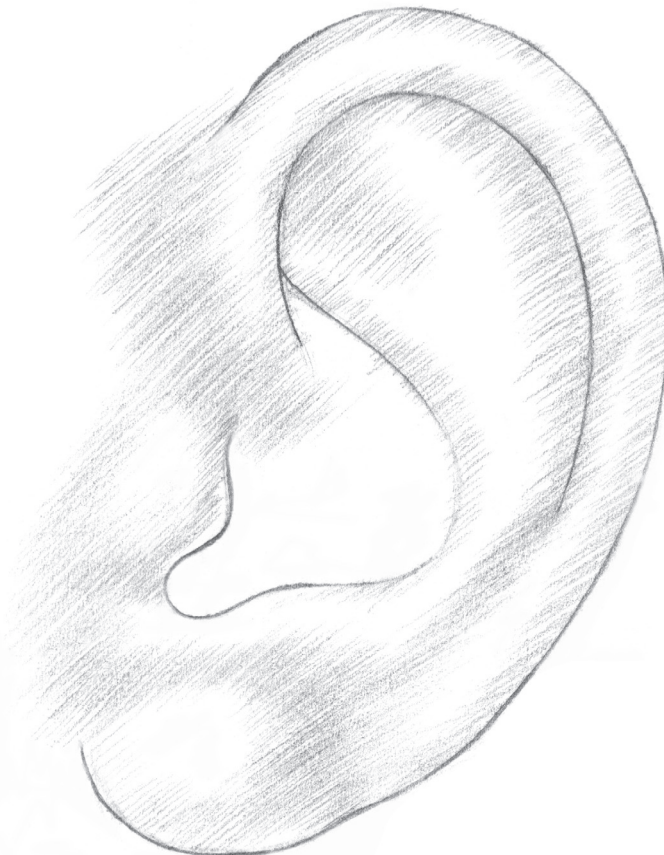
The key to making the ear look real is to accurately render the curved lines around the frontal and lower sections of the ear canal.

Figure 6



Note the curved line that connects the inside edges of the small lobe to the inner rim.

Figure 7



Shade Ear Forms

9. Add light shading to the earlobe, small lobe, and the inner and outer rims (Figure 7).

Your goal is to enhance their three dimensional forms.

Use whichever grades of pencils work best to achieve the values shown in each illustration.

Figure 8



10. Darken the shading by adding medium values with crosshatching lines to further emphasize the three-dimensional forms of the ear (Figure 8).

11. Use patience and various grades of pencils to complete the shading of the ear (Figure 9).

A full range of values and carefully-placed shading graduations trick the observer's eye into seeing the three-dimensional forms of an ear.

Figure 9



Challenge!

Look at the people around you every day, and see how many different ears you can find!



Challenge!

Borrow the ears of your family and friends, and draw them from life!