



Art Basics with Dick Termes:

DRAWING

Design it... Build it!

Teaching Tip

Environmental: Recycle

Environmental: Recycle

During this activity your students will design, draw and build a creature, building or whatever else they can imagine out of recyclable materials. The students will use drawing techniques presented in the series, [Art Basics with Dick Termes: Drawing](#), to take their designs from thoughts to paper and then from paper to reality. The sculpture created by the students must be freestanding and resemble the original drawing. Your students will learn about the importance of recycling and they will also learn what type of garbage should be recycled, reused, or thrown in the landfill.



Process:

- Introduce the activity by viewing episodes from the series, [Art Basics with Dick Termes: Drawing](#). The series uses a system of cubes, cylinders and spheres to draw almost anything. The complexity of the drawings and sculptures your students design will depend on the videos viewed. The following [guide](#) provides an episode list with corresponding pre-viewing and post-viewing activities. Younger students will design structures made of one or two of the three forms (cubes, cylinders and spheres), older students could incorporate all of the forms with complex openings, additions and materials like the examples shown below in the photo.





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- Below are four examples:



This crayon box was made from a tissue box; the box was cut to expose paper crayons. Drawing techniques in the [Cube Basic](#) and [Cube Addition](#) videos were used.



This castle was made from a cardboard box and tubes. Drawing techniques through [Cylinder Subtraction](#) were used.



This state capitol building was made from cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, pop bottles, etc. Drawing techniques through [Stacking: Realism Combined](#) were used. ([Photos](#))



This creature (Clyde) designed by artist Dick Termes in the [Stacking: Realism Combined](#) episode. The process is described below.



Art Basics with Dick Termes:

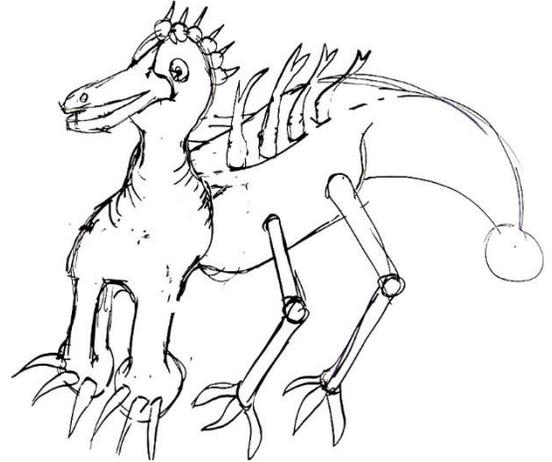
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- During the [Stacking: Realism Combined](#) episode Dick Termes used cubes, cylinders, spheres and his imagination to design a creature made of a duck head, an alligator body, a horse front and spider legs.



- A 5th grade student selected the recyclable materials that she felt resembled Dick's drawing. The sculpture was then constructed using hot glue and tape. Her selections are shown below.





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Activity Ideas:

- Assign as group or individual project; complete in class or at home, depending on time allotted
- 1. Place many items that can be recycled on a table in the middle of the classroom. The students must design, draw and then build a sculpture using the items provided. (Alternative – provide items that are not recyclable and require the students to separate them first)
- 2. The students design and draw the creation first similar to the artist, Dick Termes, in the [Stacking: Realism Combined](#) episode. Then they identify recyclable items that resemble the drawing and build their creation.
- 3. Each group of students designs a creation. The creations are collected and then randomly distributed to another group. The group then builds the creation. Each group must then identify the creation they designed.
- 4. Complete any of the activities above but limit the type of recyclables used to only one kind of form - cube, cylinder or sphere.
- The students should include a placard (sign) on each creation, similar to the one shown below, that includes Reduce, reuse and recycle facts.

Taking it to the Next Level:

- Design a mega sculpture as a class and assign sections to be built by individual groups. Each group then builds their section. A final assemble is then completed in a gym, all purpose room or outside. This activity is a perfect real-world experience that will teach kids the importance of scale, measurement, detail, design and more. They will truly understand the importance of shims, jacks, elbow grease, a large hammer, come-a-longs and more at a construction site.

