

## ***Owls in the Neighborhood Cheat Sheet (by Alison/Tulita)***

*A Directed Drawing Lesson in Pastel Chalks*

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Students will learn about the beautiful drawings and paintings of birds by **John James Audubon**, and to understand **his goal of recording all the birds of America with pictures**. People were very interested in his dramatic bird portraits, and life in the wilderness in America. The students will learn about drawing, blending, and shading color with pastel chalk.

John James Audubon was an American ornithologist, naturalist and artist known for his studies and detailed illustrations of North American birds. Audubon conducted his first scientific studies from his father's Pennsylvania estate. After trying and failing in several different types of business ventures, he concentrated on drawing and studying birds, and began traveling around the country to pursue this work. He got his extraordinary four-volume *Birds of America* published in London in 1827 and followed it up with several related works.

### **Student Objectives:**

- Review or introduce (depending on grade level) the elements of design – line, color, shape, form, texture, and space (if age appropriate).
- Learn about contrasts – light and dark.
- Learn to use pastel chalks to sketch and shade an object (and to blend the chalk using a Q-tip like a brush or blend using a tissue if preferred).
- Create a realistic picture of an owl following steps in a directed drawing lesson. ● Learn more about art in nature, a bit about owls, and the artist, John James Audubon.

### **Supplies:**

- One sheet drawing paper, around 100 pound 11" x 14" or 12" x 18"
- Pencil & Eraser
- 3-4 Q-tips per child or tissue if preferred for blending. Fingers can be used but some kids may not like that.
- Soft (Chalk) Pastels - assorted. You will mostly need natural "owl" colored - brown, black, white, grey, and bright yellow (for eyes). You may also want some greens for the foliage around the owl. (Pastels can be broken into 2 or even 3 pieces, a small piece of white chalk (about 1/4 of a stick can be used), and one piece of bright yellow chalk or bright yellow crayon or oil pastel can be substituted for pastel for coloring eyes.
- One half paper towel to clean hands during the project
- Wipes or damp paper towels for after project (or allow kids to wash hands)
- Hairspray Fixative - optional (Aquanet or similar) to spray outdoors away from kids when projects are complete.

## Step by Step:

1. Outline the triangle 1/3 way from top of paper



2. Draw sideways rainbows on each side of triangle



3. Draw the head and ears



4. Draw the body



5. Draw the tree



6. Draw the wings, tail, and feet



7. Color the owl and tree



8. Add background color and blend and shade your colors



1. Start by drawing a triangle, point side down, about 1/3 of the way down from the top of the paper. (we will have cardboard triangles the students can trace around)

2. Add half circles to make eyes and circles for pupils. (you can also tell the students to make "sideways rainbows" on each side of the triangle for the eyes)

3. Add a somewhat round head and slightly curved horns (if you want to draw a Great Horned Owl)

4. From the bottom of the head, add curved lines (like parentheses!) on both sides to form the wings and body.

5. Add a tree and branch for the owl to sit on.

6. Add the curved lines to finish the wings and add the tail feathers and curved lines for talons.

7. Start using your soft pastels to add color to your owl. Observe your owl images and follow the lines and contour of the feathers. Then use your pinkie to smudge and soften the pastel and fill in the image.

8. Continue adding a variety of greys, blacks and browns to fill in your owl's feathers.

9. Soften and smudge your owl using strokes that are in the same direction as the lines drawn... (don't just "scribble" your smudging). Also - add some more slightly curved lines for the owl's feet peeking from under its belly and holding the branch. Add some greenery if you like.

10. (Not shown) Finish by adding more greenery or a background sky of blue or black if you like and have time. Sign your work.