

LESSON 8:

FORENSIC SKETCHING

SUPPLIES

MAIN BIN

- Play-Doh (15)

FOLDER

- Paper (30)
- Sketch Handouts (15 of each)


PENCIL BOX

- Pencils
- Rulers

OBJECTIVES


- Study the art of forensic sketching
- Create a forensic sketch based on witness descriptions of the museum suspect

HOOK

 3 min

- The Ancient Scroll of the Oracle has been stolen! It vanished from its case at the Museum of Ancient Mysteries. Now it's up to you to solve the mystery and recover it before it's lost forever.

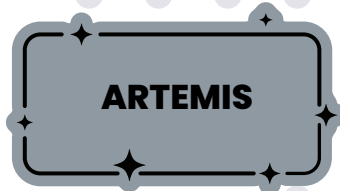
INTRODUCTION

 3-5 min

Welcome back, agents! As a member of the Secret Agent Academy, you have been recruited for a very special mission.

A valuable artifact, the Ancient Scroll of the Oracle, has been stolen from its protected glass case in the Museum of Ancient Mysteries and Artifacts. Now, it's up to you to solve the case and recover the artifact before it's lost forever! The bronze scroll holds a secret prophecy that contains writings from an ancient oracle, said to foretell the destinies of those who seek its wisdom. The museum's security system has been hacked, so all we have are the clues found so far by night security and the museum curator, Dr. Archibald, who discovered the missing scroll!

MEET TODAY'S SECRET AGENT



Specialty: Forensic Sketching & Witness Recall

Meet Agent Artemis, a master of the mysterious art of forensic sketching. With just a simple description from a witness, Agent Artemis can bring suspects to life on paper! With a sketch book in hand and focus like a laser, Artemis transforms scattered memories into powerful visual clues!



INTRODUCTION CONT'D

🕒 5-10 mins

Before the security system was hacked, the security cameras revealed a figure sneaking around. The security guard believes he also saw someone sneaking around the night of the break in, so he can provide you with a description of the shadowy figure. Dr. Archibald also claimed to see someone suspicious that day while he was eating his lunch. How can their descriptions help you catch the thief?

Today, Agent Artemis needs assistance trying to recreate the image and profile of the suspect. Forensic sketches are special drawings made by artists who listen carefully to what people saw. Artists skilled in forensic art use precise measurements and proportions to recreate facial features, such as the distance between the eyes, the shape of the nose, and the size of the mouth.

Forensic science also plays a role in the creation of sketches. Understanding of the structure of the face helps a sketch artist accurately portray a suspect. Now, computers can create drawings using formulas and information from witnesses. Even though forensic sketches are really useful, artists face challenges when they create drawings. Sometimes, eyewitnesses don't always remember everything correctly because of the stress of the criminal event, for example. Today, you will try to accurately sketch the suspect from the Museum of Ancient Mysteries!

ACTIVITY

🕒 30 mins

1. Divide students into small groups and provide each group with plain printer paper, pencils, and the Sketch #1 template.
2. Read the descriptions from witnesses aloud to the students. The descriptions are listed on the next page.
3. Instruct students to use the materials provided to draw facial features based on the description that you read aloud to them. They will start with Sketch #1, the security guard's description. Part of the sketch has been started for them!
 - Student's sketches should include eyes, a nose, a mouth, and any other important facial features and clothing.
4. Once they complete Sketch #1, re-read the museum curator's description and have them draw on Sketch #2.
5. Encourage students to include details such as hair color, facial hair, and any distinguishing features observed by the professor and security guard.
 - As an alternative, you can show students the pictures shown on the next page and have them try to recreate those sketches.
6. Have students discuss the differences between each composite sketch and the description and compare their sketches and creations.



ACTIVITY (CONTINUED)

Security Guard Description:

In the dim light, some features stood out distinctly. The person wasn't towering, just average height. He was in his 40's or so.

His face was very slim, shaped like a heart. His eyes were wider, rounder, with a bit of intensity. His eyebrows were long, and rounded. His nose was long, but you could not see his lips as it was hidden underneath his mustache and beard. He had dark hair to match.

He was wearing a dark suit jacket. He kept to himself and looked like he knew where he was going. In the end, whoever it was, he sure knew how to move quietly and quickly.

Museum Curator Description:

Standing at about six feet tall, he was very slim. He was probably in his late 20's or early 30's. His face was round with a diamond-shaped chin. He had almond-shaped eyes and thick eyebrows. His eyes were evenly shaped. His nose was medium sized. He had some stubble on his jawline.

He had full lips, and he seemed to be smirking, adding to his mysterious demeanor. He had dark, wispy hair under his large headphones.

His outfit? He was dressed casually in dark clothing. Possibly a sweatshirt or hoodie. He kept to himself.




EXTENSION

Provide students with Play-Doh to try and recreate their sketches, paying attention to the features in the descriptions. Encourage students to pay attention to symmetry, molding the ears and eyes to look the same.

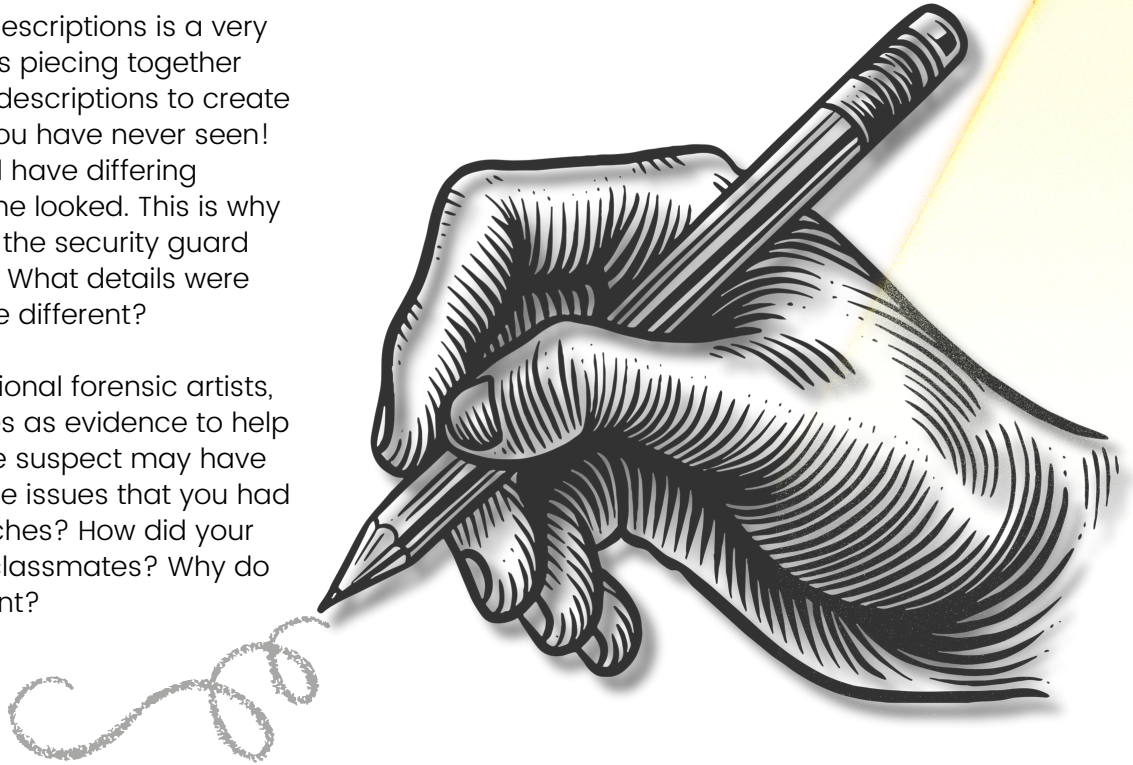


OBSERVE & EXPLAIN

 5-7 mins

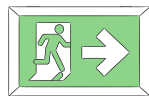
Creating a sketch using descriptions is a very challenging skill. It involves piecing together fragments of eyewitness descriptions to create a snapshot of a person you have never seen! Many times, witnesses will have differing memories of how someone looked. This is why the museum curator and the security guard provided different details. What details were the same, and which were different?

While you are not professional forensic artists, you were able to use clues as evidence to help you get closer to what the suspect may have looked like. What are some issues that you had as you created your sketches? How did your sketch compare to your classmates? Why do you think they look different?



CHALLENGE EXTENSION

For more advanced students, try a Measurement and Analysis Challenge. Facial symmetry, or having similar features on both sides of the face, is important in forensic investigations. It can show if someone has been hurt, has a health condition, or was born with a distinct feature. Provide students with rulers to measure the distance between features on each side of the face and to check if their drawings are symmetrical.



Exit Ticket



Ask each student one of the following questions as they walk out the door.

- Q: What is forensic sketching?
 - A: Forensic sketching is when an artist creates a drawing of a person based on a witness's description.
- Q: What is forensic sketching used for?
 - A: Forensic sketching is used to help identify people, like suspects or missing persons, based on what a witness remembers.

SKETCH #1 - SECURITY GUARD'S DESCRIPTION

Complete the sketch based on the description provided by the museum curator. Make your sketch as detailed as possible

