

Age: First Through Sixth Grade

Lesson Duration: 45 Minutes

Subject: Owls

Owl Drawings Inspired by Roy Henry Vickers

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY MONA
EDUCATORS



Above: Student example

Source: Museum of Northwest Art

Materials

- Choice of light colored construction paper (9 x 12")
- Scratch paper
- #2 Pencils and erasers
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Examples of Roy Henry Vicker's art (included in this lesson plan)
- Optional: *Owl Moon* picture book by Jane Yolen

Description

Students will make original drawings of owls based on local owls in their area. They will learn about the life and work of artist Roy Henry Vickers and draw inspiration from his paintings of owls.



Student examples

Source: Museum of Northwest Art

Instructions

- 1) Show Roy Henry Vickers' two owl paintings (included at the end of this lesson). Use Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) with the class to discuss this image further. VTS explanation sheet is attached below for more info.
 - Optional: Read *Owl Moon* aloud to the class.
- 2) Share the biography and work of Roy Henry Vickers (included in this lesson).
- 3) Let the students come up with their own owl drawings by working on scratch paper with pencil. You may want to refer to the pages on "Helpful Bird/Owl Drawing Tips" included at the end of this lesson and spend some time learning about owls that are local to your area. When they have technical questions, you can bring in their peers so that answers don't have to come from the teacher. Consider asking: How do you want to handle it? What was your idea in the beginning?
- 4) Once students create their own design they can decide on the color of paper they want to use. They will use pencil to draw their owl. Encourage them to add as much detail as they can.
- 5) They can use the crayons or colored pencils to add color. Optional: students could also use black marker to trace the outlines.
- 6) The teacher can circulate and help problem solve with questions.

Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Emphasis
- ✓ Dominance
- ✓ Repetition
- ✓ Pattern
- ✓ Line
- ✓ Shape
- ✓ Color
- ✓ Texture



Example Owl Drawing by Nicolette Harrington

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Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **First Grade:** (VA:Cr1.2.1) Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art
- **Second Grade:** (VA:Cr.2.2.2) . Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces.
- **Third Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.3) Create personally satisfying artwork, using a variety of artistic processes and materials.
- **Fourth Grade:** (VA:Cr1.2.4) Collaboratively set goals and create artwork that is meaningful and has purpose to the makers.
- **Fifth Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.5) Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.
- **Sixth Grade:** (VA:Cr2.1.6) Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

About the Artist: Roy Henry Vickers



Portrait of Roy Henry Vickers
Source: Royhenryvickers.com

Roy Henry Vickers is a well-known First Nations Artist from Canada. Along with painting, Vickers is an author, carver, and has received a hereditary chieftainship and several hereditary names from Northwest Coast First Nations. He was born in 1946 in northern British Columbia and he studied traditional First Nations at the Gitanmaax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art. In 1986 he built a Northwest coast longhouse Art Gallery on Vancouver Island that welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year from around the world. Vickers has completed more than 26 totem poles and is a powerful storyteller and speaker and is known for fighting inequality.



Snowy Owl
Source: Royhenryvickers.com



Raven
Source: Royhenryvickers.com



Solstice 1999
Source: Royhenryvickers.com

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?
What do you see that makes you say that...?
What more can you find?

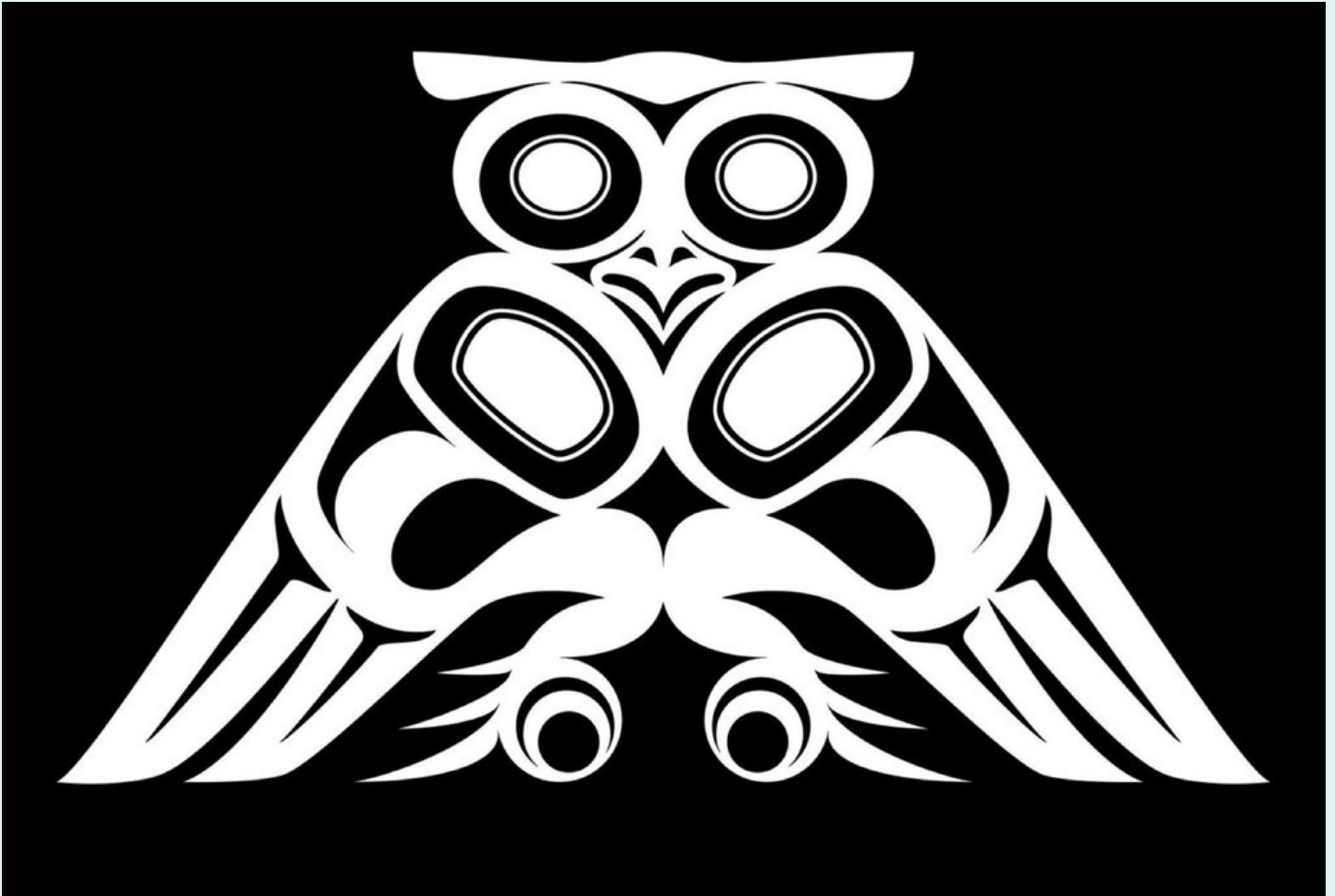
Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to VTS in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: <https://www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators>



Owl, Roy Henry Vickers

Source: moedhart.com/portfolio-items/owl-roy-henry-vickers/



Snowy Owl, Roy Henry Vickers

Source: Royhenryvickers.com

Helpful Bird/Owl Drawing Tips

Birth of a Birder!

Ask what type of owl is it?

when you're trying to figure out what type of bird you are looking at:

NOTICE THE COLOR of the ^{head} body wings tail

NOTICE "FIELD MARKS" like bars on the wings rings around the eyes stripes or other patterns

COMPARE SIZE & SHAPE of the bird

It's easy to learn & large owls.

Barn Owl - heart shaped face
light color tan feathers

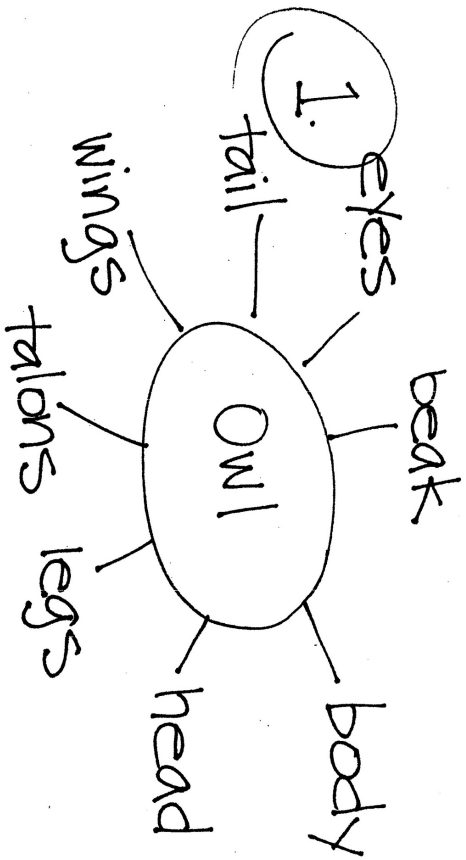
Great Horned Owl - tufts of feathers
that appear to be "ears"
or horns

Great Grey Owl - large round facial disks of
feathers around eyes
round head

Snowy Owl - large white owl
with "slippers" on his feet

Visit [Washington's Nature Mapping Program: Owl Identification](#)
to learn more!

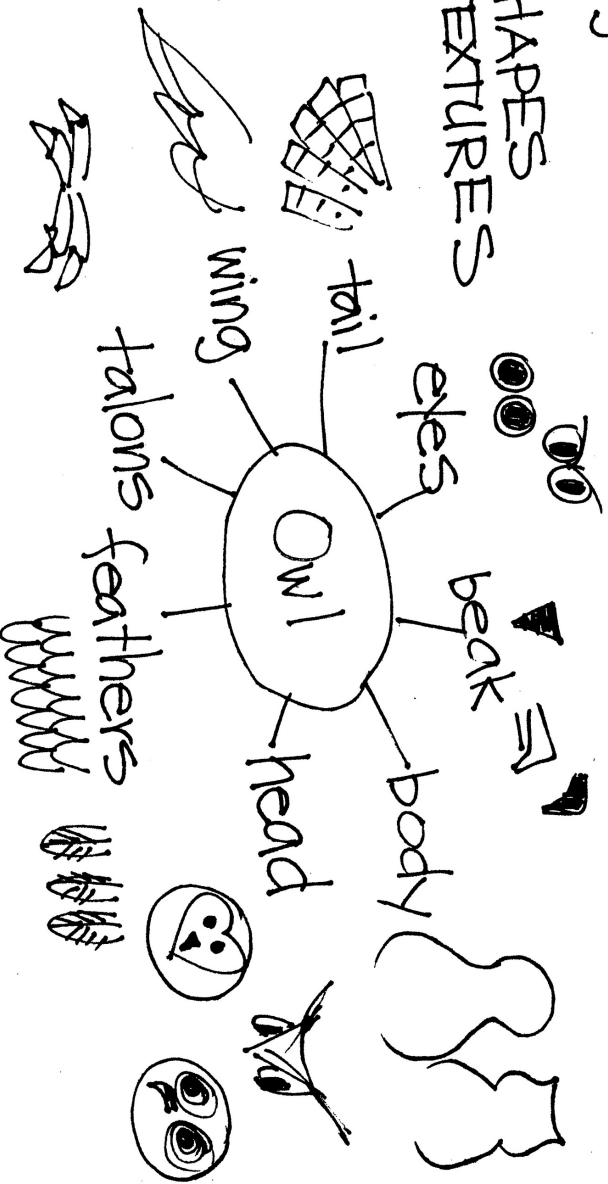
Before drawing something complicated
... take it apart.



list parts
via diagram

1. Draw all the parts!

2. Add SHAPES & TEXTURES



Who's whooo?

