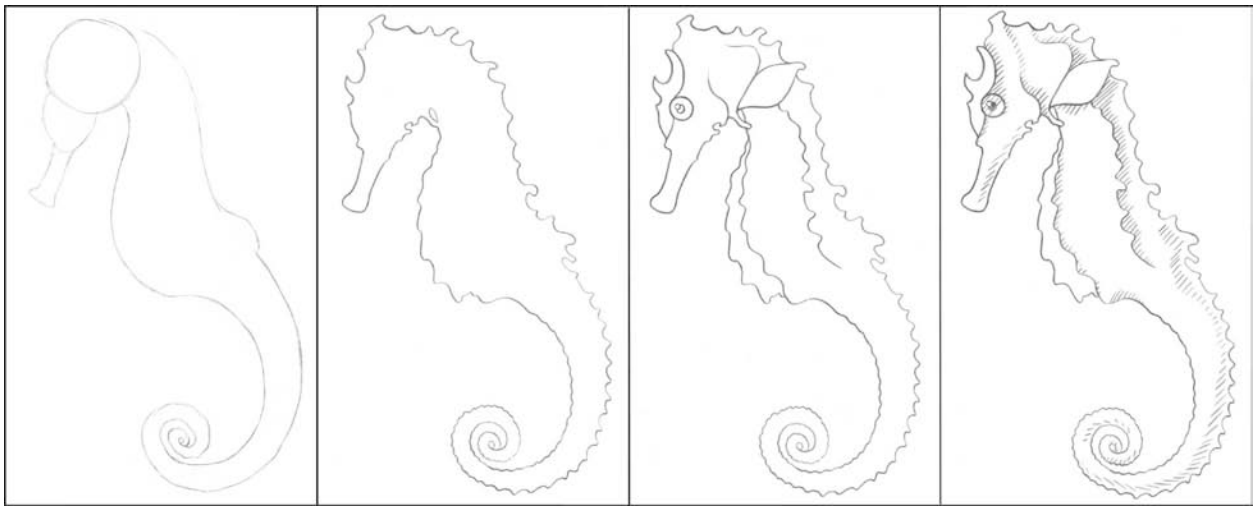
SEAHORSE

Brenda Hoddinott



F12 BEGINNER: HATCHING

This fun project takes you step-by-step through the process of drawing a seahorse. You first sketch proportions, then outline the various contours, and finally add hatching lines.

This project is divided into the following three sections:

- **SETTING UP PROPER PROPORTIONS:** You outline the seahorse proportionately correct with faint curved lines, in preparation for a more detailed contour drawing.
- **TURNING A SKETCH INTO A DRAWING:** You make the various shapes of the seahorse look more realistic, by creating a contour drawing.
- **SHADING WITH SIMPLE HATCHING LINES:** You use hatching lines to enhance the illusion of form by shading the sections in shadow.

Suggested drawing supplies include good quality drawing paper, an HB pencil, erasers, and a pencil sharpener.

9 PAGES – 27 ILLUSTRATIONS

This lesson is recommended for artists from age 10 to adult, as well as students of home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators.

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SETTING UP PROPER PROPORTIONS

In this section, you outline the seahorse proportionately correct with faint curved lines, in preparation for a more detailed contour drawing. Keep your sketch lines very light; most of them need to be erased before you finish.

As an aside, the lines in my actual drawing are much lighter than they appear here. I've darkened them in a computer imaging program so you can see them well.

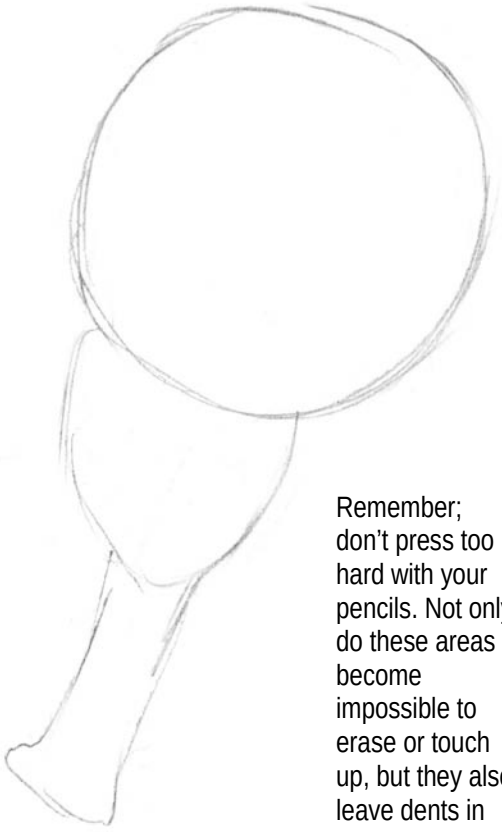
FIGURE 1201



1. **Draw a circular shape in the upper left section of your drawing paper as the head.**

   Refer to Figure 1201. Make sure you leave plenty of room on your drawing paper for the body and tail.

FIGURE 1202



2. **Add a U-shape below and to the left of the head.**

   Refer to Figure 1202. This is the upper section of the snout.

3. **Sketch a narrow shape with a wider part at the bottom as the lower section of the snout.**

   These lines indicate the shape of the head and face.

4. **Draw a gently flowing curved line as the front of the seahorse's body (Figure 1203).**

Remember; don't press too hard with your pencils. Not only do these areas become impossible to erase or touch up, but they also leave dents in your paper.

ART SPEAK

Drawing is the application of an art medium to a surface so as to produce a visual image that visually defines an artist's choice of drawing subjects from his or her own unique perspective.

Curved lines are created when a straight line curves (or bends).

Proportion is the relationship in size of one component of a drawing to another or others.

Shading refers to the various shades of gray in a drawing that create the illusion that subjects are three-dimensional.

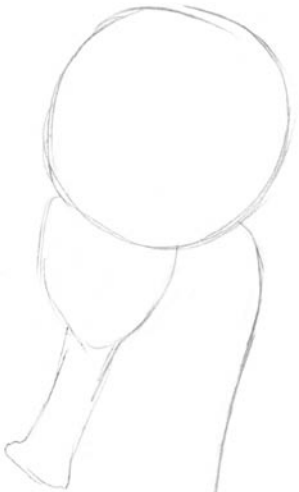
Shape refers to the outward outline of a form. Basic shapes include circles, squares and triangles.

Sketch is a quick, representation or outline of a planned drawing subject. A sketch can also be a completed work of art.

Contour drawing is a drawing comprised of lines that follow the contours of the edges of various components of a drawing subject.

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FIGURE 1203



5. **Sketch another curved line as the back of the body.**

   Refer to Figure 1204.

FIGURE 1204

6. **Add two more curved lines to outline the tail.**

   The tail is narrower toward its end.

7. **Add the curly section at the end of the tail.**

   Take you time - this part can be a little tricky.

FIGURE 1205

ART SPEAK

Form as applied to drawing, is the illusion of the three-dimensional structure of a shape, such as a circle, square or triangle, created in a drawing with shading and/or perspective.

TURNING A SKETCH INTO A DRAWING

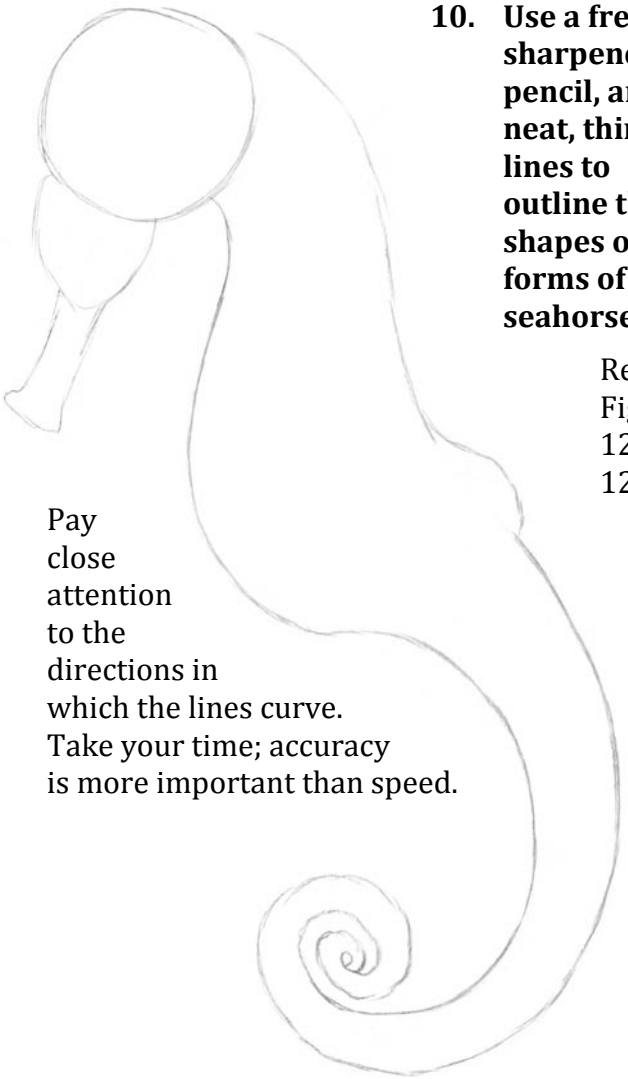
In this section you make the various shapes of the seahorse look more realistic by creating a contour drawing. You redraw the seahorse with nice neat lines that better show the under-forms of the skeletal structure.

8. **Check over you sketch and change anything that doesn't look quite right (Figure 1206).**

9. **Use your kneaded eraser to lighten all your sketch lines until they are so faint that you can barely see them.**

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FIGURE 1206



10. Use a freshly sharpened HB pencil, and neat, thin lines to outline the shapes of the forms of the seahorse.

Refer to Figures 1207 to 1223.

Pay close attention to the directions in which the lines curve. Take your time; accuracy is more important than speed.

FIGURE 1207

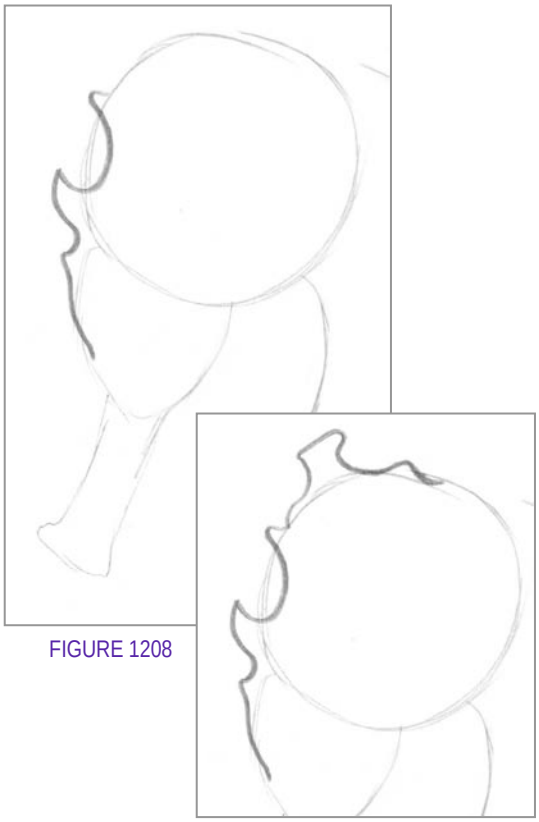


FIGURE 1208

FIGURE 1209



As you draw, don't think about the subject of this drawing being a "horse". Your memories of actual horses may influence the lines you draw. Rather, focus only on the lines themselves and the beauty of the curves of their contours.

The seahorse in this project is not based on one specific species; rather it is a generic creature existing only in my imagination.

However, seahorses are not imaginary creatures (like mermaids, unicorns, or dragons). They are very real! More than 32 species of seahorses (a genus of fish) live in sheltered areas of shallow tropical and temperate waters throughout the world.

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FIGURE 1210

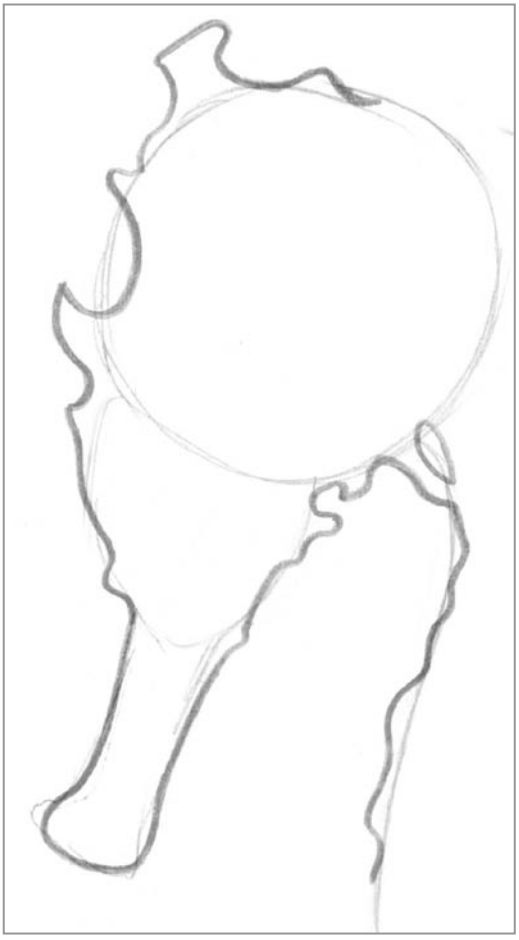
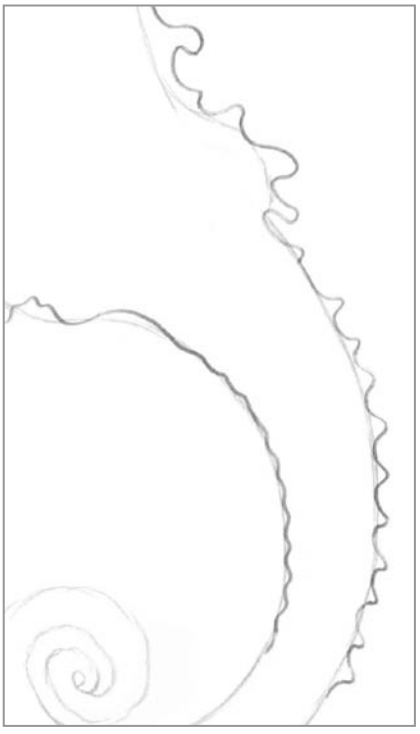


FIGURE 1211



FIGURE 1212



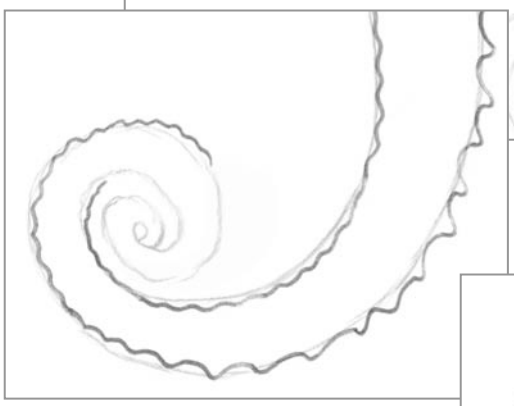
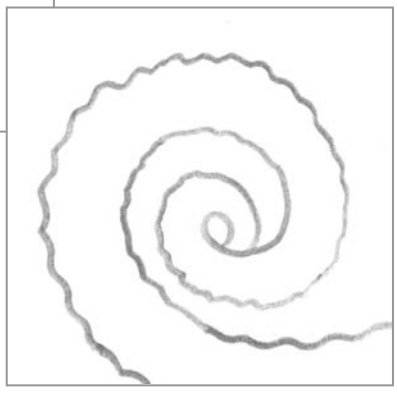


FIGURE 1213

FIGURE 1214



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FIGURE 1215



FIGURE 1216

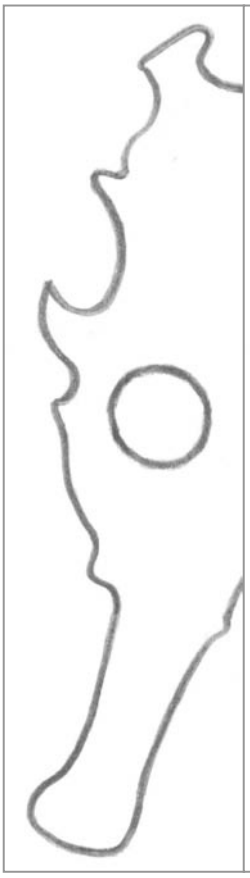


FIGURE 1217

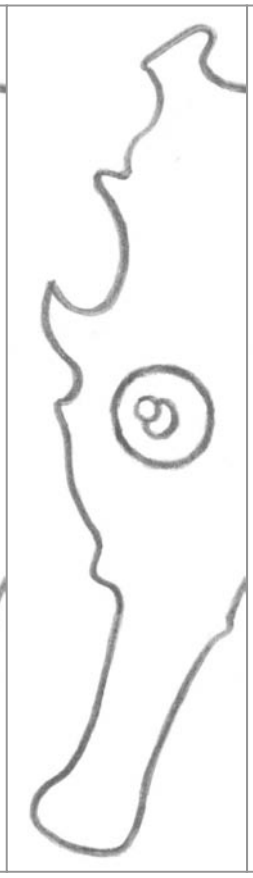


FIGURE 1218

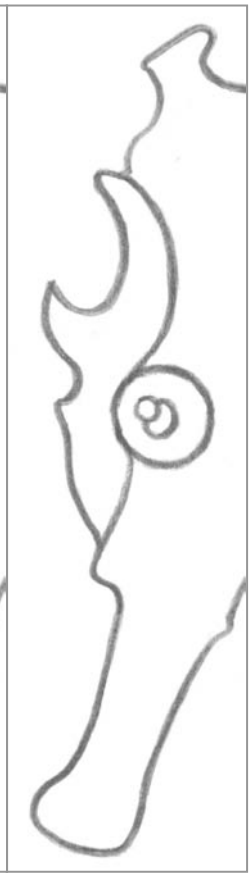


FIGURE 1219



FIGURE 1220



FIGURE 1221

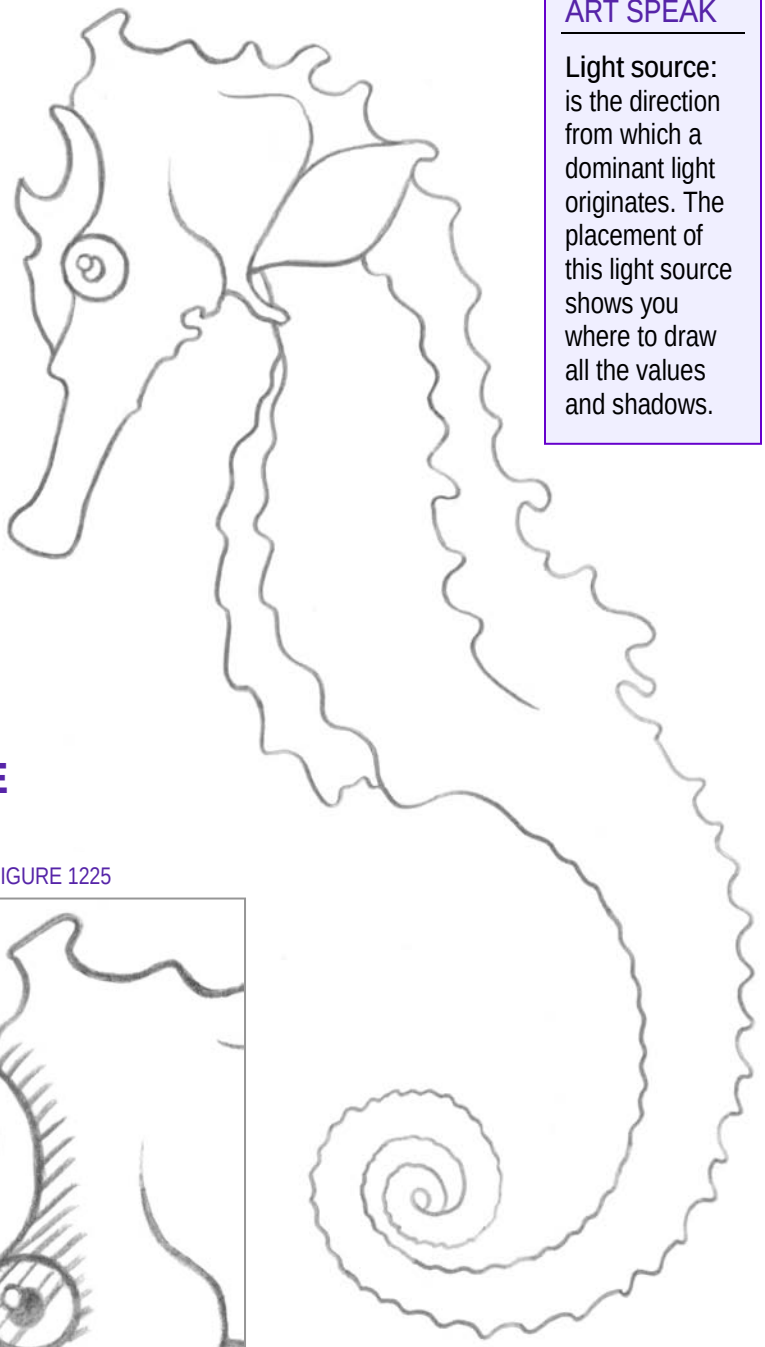


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FIGURE 1222



FIGURE 1223



> **ART SPEAK**
>
> **Light source:** is the direction from which a dominant light originates. The placement of this light source shows you where to draw all the values and shadows.

SHADING WITH SIMPLE HATCHING LINES

In this section you use hatching lines to enhance the illusion of form by shading the sections in shadow.

FIGURE 1224

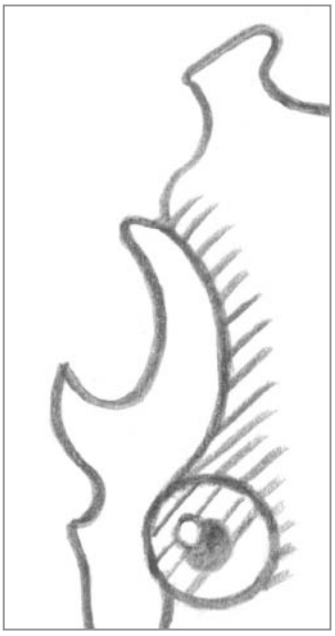


FIGURE 1225



11. Use an HB pencil to add shading to the seahorse with hatching lines.

Refer to Figures 1224 to 1227. The light source is from the upper left.

12. Then, give yourself a big hug!

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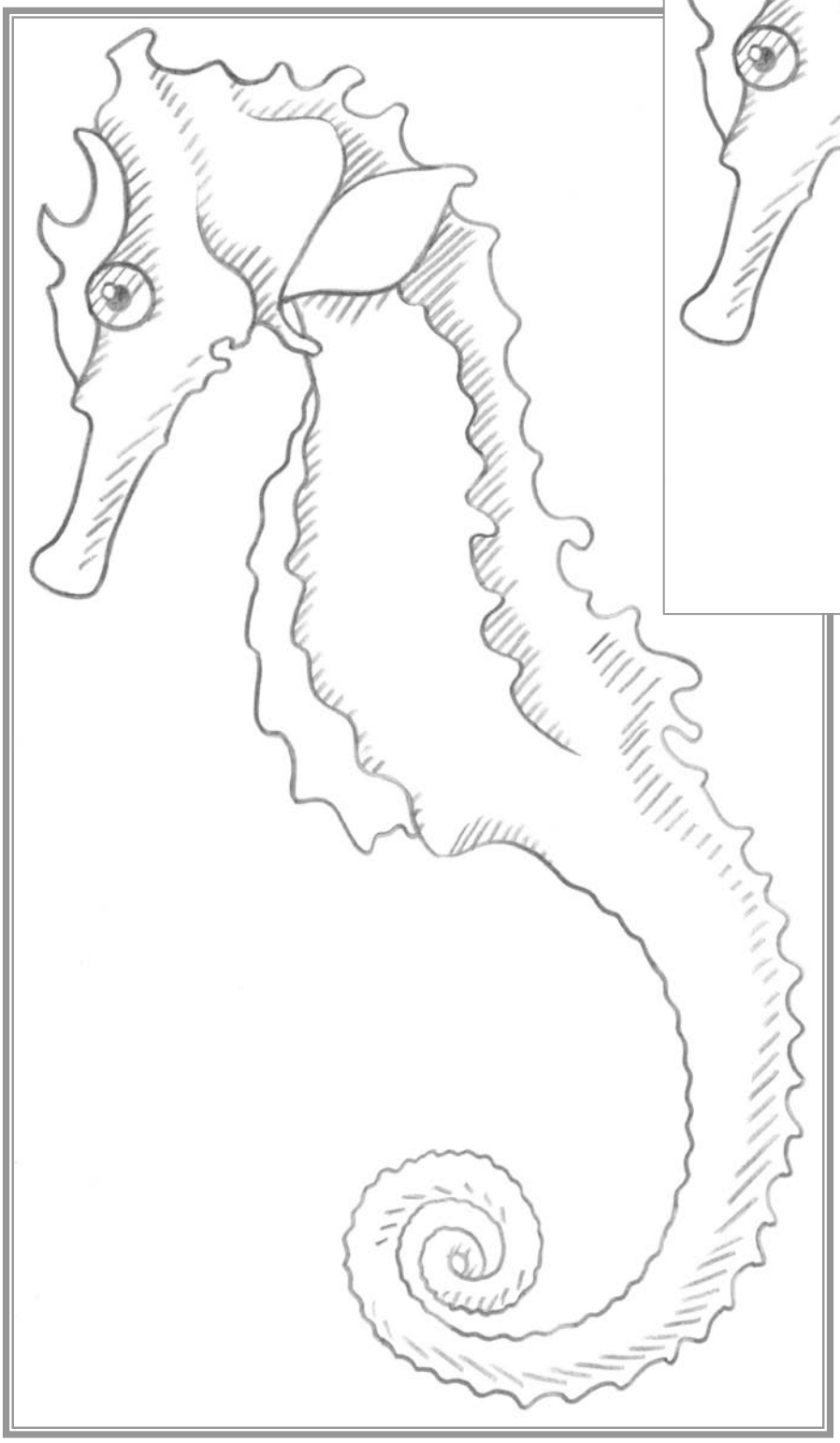
CHALLENGE

Create another lesson based on this project. However, instead of a seahorse, try drawing a sea-unicorn!

FIGURE 1226



FIGURE 1227



Did you know?

- *Seahorses do not have scales like most fish; instead, the skeleton is covered with a thin skin.*
- *Seahorses swim upright (not horizontally).*
- *Male (not female) seahorses give birth - approximately 2-3 weeks after the female deposits her eggs into his pouch.*

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BRENDA HODDINOTT - BIOGRAPHY

As a self-educated teacher, visual artist, portraitist, forensic artist, and illustrator, Brenda Hoddinott utilizes diverse art media including graphite, technical pen, colored pencil, chalk pastel, charcoal, conté crayon, and oil paints.

> *My philosophy on teaching art is to focus primarily on the enjoyment aspects while gently introducing the technical and academic. Hence, in creating a passion for the subject matter, the quest for knowledge also becomes enjoyable.*
>
> >Brenda Hoddinott<

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brenda grew up in the small town of Corner Brook. She developed strong technical competencies with a personal commitment to self directed learning, and the aid of assorted "Learn to Draw" books. During Brenda's twenty-five year career as a self-educated civilian forensic artist, numerous criminal investigation departments have employed Brenda's skills, including Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal police departments. In 1992, Brenda was honored with a commendation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Membership from "Forensic Artists International".

Her home-based art career included graphic design, and teaching recreational drawing and painting classes. As supervisor of her community's recreational art department, Brenda hired and trained teachers, and designed curriculum for several children's art programs. In 1998, Brenda chose to end her eighteen-year career as an art educator in order to devote more time to writing, drawing, painting, and developing her websites.

Drawspace http://www.drawspace.com incorporates her unique style and innovative approach to curriculum development. This site offers downloadable and printable drawing classes for students of all abilities from the age of eight through adult. Students of all ages, levels and abilities have praised the simple step-by-step instructional approach. This site is respected as a resource for fine art educators, home schooling programs, and educational facilities throughout the world.

LEARN-TO-DRAW BOOKS BY BRENDA HODDINOTT

- **Drawing for Dummies:** Wiley Publishing, Inc., New, York, NY, this 336 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.
- **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Drawing People:** Winner of the Alpha-Penguin Book of the Year Award 2004, Alpha - Pearson Education – Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN, this 360 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.

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