

The Ultimate

ART SUPPLY CHECKLIST

Not quite sure if you have what you need? Here are some suggestions to get you started or add to your stash of art and illustration supplies:

- _____ Sketchbook *It can either be homemade or storebought, blank stationery pads, or "official" sketchbooks. You can choose different kinds of binding: spiral-bound, cloth-bound, tape-bound, etc.*
- _____ Pencils *Mind your B's and H's! Pencils are not limited to the #2's you use at school. Degrees of darkness (softness) or lighness (hardness) vary according to the range of the lead. Try using 4H lead for initial sketching because it is very light and erases well. Try 4B for much darker shades.*
- _____ Colored Pencils *Colored pencils are a great choice for artists of all skill levels. They work well for detailed drawings and can be purchased either individually or in sets of assorted colors.*
- _____ Pencil Sharpener *An absolute must-have! Try double sharpeners, which accommodate jumbo and regular pencils. Electric sharpeners work in a jiffy, but be careful, as they tend to "gobble up" your pencils in a flash!*
- _____ Eraser *All erasers are not created equal! Many artists prefer kneaded and plastic varieties. Kneaded erasers can be pulled and twisted in any shape to get in small spots or wipe out big areas. They look and feel like gray taffy. Soft white plastic erasers are also recommended because they clean without smudging.*
- _____ Markers *The choices are limitless. Marker sets come in a full range of colors and prices, starteding at a few dollars and soaring to the hundreds! You can also purchase markers individually. Some are permanent; others wash-able.*
- _____ Crayons *Crayons aren't just for coloring books! Use them for drawing pictures on your own or mixing with other media.*
- _____ Pastels *Soft pastels are like fancy colored chalk. They're fun to work with and are incredibly easy to blend. The downside is they require fixative, an aerosol spray used to prevent smudging on the surface on which you've drawn. Fixative has harmful fumes, so you must be extremely careful when using it. If you prefer not to work with sprays or dust, consider using oil pastels, which are similar to crayons.*
- _____ Ink Pen *Try either the old fashioned pens that you dip in a bottle of ink or use the modern kind with ink already inside the pen barrel. Unless you want to run the risk of smudges, try waterproof ink, which will not smudge or run once dry.*
- _____ Watercolors *These paints come in either tubes or paints. They mix with water (hence the name). You can buy inexpensive pan sets, which have the colors in dry "cakes," in pre-filled wells. Tube colors are moist and must be squirted in pallette wells before use.*
- _____ Brushes *You don't need a whole collection of brushes. Artists may own several, but only have two or three favorites. It all depends on which brushes meet the needs of the painting in progress. Try fine-tipped brushes for detail work and large flat brushes for backgrounds and washes (wash = diluted watercolor).*