Make a self-portrait

Use a mirror to take a close look at the placement and shapes of your facial features — and then put your own artistic spin on your self-portrait.

What you’ll need

* Mirror
* Crayons or colored pencils
* Paper. Consider using graph paper to align the features and take a shape-based approach (like triangle for nose, etc.).

How to do it

* Look at yourself closely in the mirror. Ask yourself: What is the shape of your face? Is it oval or egg shaped? More square or rectangular or trapezoidal? Round like a circle? Like an upside-down triangle? Draw the outline of your face. (Leave room on the page to draw your neck and shoulders.)
* Now look at your eyes. Where are they located? Observe the color and shape of your eyes (almond-shaped, for example). Draw your eyes.
* Examine where your nose is in relation to your eyes and mouth. Do your ears start at eye level and extend below nose level? Draw your nose, mouth, and ears.
* What other features do you want to add, such as eyebrows, hair, teeth, dimples, or birthmarks? Add them.
* Draw your neck and shoulders.
* To finish your self-portrait, draw a background — either where you are now or somewhere you imagine being.

Questions to answer

How does your self-portrait differ from a picture of you?

Did thinking about your facial features in terms of shapes help you draw? Why?