

PAINT YOUR OWN SELF PORTRAIT

As we learned in camp, a famous African American painter, Joshua Johnson, created self portraits of people. Before becoming a painter for the very rich, he was an enslaved man. This was important because in the 1700s, people didn't have cameras! If you wanted to remember what someone or somewhere looked like, you needed to get it painted! In today's activity, we are going to learn some simple steps to help us make our own self portrait!



- Step 1: Look at your face in the mirror. What are things on your face you'd have to draw? If you answered two eyes, a nose, a mouth, and two ears- you're correct! You have eyebrows, eyelashes, and maybe some freckles too, but these are the big items we are going to focus on drawing first!
- Step 2: Place the paper where you will be drawing your portrait in front of you. In pencil, lightly trace an oval in the middle of the paper. This will be your face.
- Step 3: Next, outline your neck and shoulders. You can also draw a line where your shirt will be.
- Step 4: Look at your oval and find the very center. On either side of the center, draw two dots. These will become the pupils of your eyes.
- Step 5: Next, find the middle point between your chin and the eye dots. Leave another small dot there. This will be the tip of your nose.
- Step 6: Next, find the middle point between your nose and chin. Put a small dot there. This will be the center of your mouth.
- Step 7: Next, add details to your eyes! Make the pupil bigger by adding to the small eye dots you made. Once your pupil is filled in, make your eye shape. Finally, fill in your eye color around your pupil.
- Step 8: Next, draw your nose. The dot marks the tip, or bottom of your nose, so draw out and up from that point.

- Step 9: Next, add your eyebrows and eyelashes.
- Step 10: Next, make your mouth.
- Step 11: Add your ears! They will be in line with the pupils of your eyes.
- Step 12: Now, it's time to add hair. Remember, hair won't just be on the top of your head, but will also take up some of your forehead. Once your hair is outlined, you can erase the pencil line on top of your head.
- Step 13: Outline the rest of your face in a crayon or paint color of your choice.
- Step 14: Next, color in your skin tone.
- Step 15: Then, color in your hair.
- Step 16: Next, color in your shirt.
- Step 17: Color in your mouth.
- Step 18: If you want, color in the background.
- Step 19: At the very end, if your coloring covers any of your facial feature lines, you can go over them again in crayon or paint to make them stand out!