

# Faces of Canada

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## The Kingston Prize Education Program

Artist Nancy Douglas

### Lesson 2: *What is a Gesture?*

Part 1 *Tornadoes, Springs and Apples*

Students learn to draw an object using gesture.

Part 2 *Skeletons and Gestures*

Students make sketches of human skeleton and gesture drawings of classmates

**Equipment:** Smart board or laptop

**Reference Materials:** PowerPoint, Handouts

**Art Supplies:** ½ stick of black Conté (medium softness), 18" x 24" newsprint, pencils, white 14" X 17" drawing paper & one apple each

**Part 1 requires one apple each for everyone.**

**Part 2 desks may need to be rearranged.**

**Art Learning: *What is a Gesture?***

**PowerPoint or PDF Slide Projection or Photocopied, (Intro 5 Minutes)**

The PowerPoint defines terminology for gesture drawing and illustrates the use of gesture by artists for exploratory sketches. The PowerPoint is designed to be used while in the act of drawing. Teacher and Students can follow each step outlined in the presentation leading the class through Part 1: warm up drawings, gesture drawings and full apple portraits, and Part 2: skeleton sketches and gestures of model/classmate.

**Part 1 Art Exploring: *Tornadoes, Springs and Apples***

**(See detailed instructions within PowerPoint)**

**Warm Ups! ½ Conté Stick, Newsprint (20-30 Minutes)**

At the beginning of class, or at **slide number 7**, distribute two pages of 18" X 24" newsprint and ½ conte stick to each student. If necessary, pages can be folded in half lengthwise one inside the other to make a 12" X 18" booklet. This will give good padding for drawing, and fit most desk sizes.

**Slide 13:** Distribute one apple to each student (more newsprint?)

**Slide 16-22:** if time allows, extend the gesture drawing of the apple to a full, shaded apple portrait as illustrated in the PowerPoint (hand out white drawing paper for this)

Depending on schedule and students, you may want to break here and continue Part 2 Skeletons and Gestures another day.

### **Part 2 Art Making: Skeletons and Gestures begins at slide 24**

**Supplies: Skeleton Handout/one sheet white drawing paper/pencil, then newsprint and drawing stick (conte) for gestures**

Distribute Skeleton handouts to students along with white paper and pencil. Students are asked to make a study sketch of the skeleton. This 10-20-minute exercise will greatly improve student's awareness of the human structure and how it moves. Some students will be very interested in this activity and should be encouraged to continue drawing the skeleton as much as they can.

- The sketch can include shading
- The size of the sketch should be at least the size as in the photo copy
- As the drawing unfolds, encourage students to make notations on the photocopy regarding ratios of the skeleton, e.g., halfway from the top of the skull to the heel is the hip joint. How long are the legs compared to the arms? etc.

### **Two sheets of newsprint each and conte drawing stick.**

- The PowerPoint shows gesture drawings, and pinpoints some things to look for when drawing a gesture of a human. Students volunteer to be the clothed model and make dynamic poses for classmates to draw gestures.
- Desks are rearranged. Depending on classroom, you may want to have a central aisle for the student model to pose. It is best if students are not looking over top of one another.
- I often begin by speaking to students about respecting the volunteer model. I thank the student model for agreeing to pose, and tell them they are in charge, and we will follow their lead.
- Gestures should be fun and not highly realistic or finished looking.
- For virtual learning, a video could be made of simple movements of clothed model. There are Youtube videos showing gestures, clothed models.