

**A Drawing a Day - May**

**May day! May day! Need some help with motivation and inspiration to get creative?**

**Here are our May Drawing a Day challenge themes and prompts to help you**

**May 1st – Labour Day**

* Don’t make hard work of getting creative – be a free spirit and get doodling
* Splash some paint around and experiment with wet in wet watercolour technique. Be inspired by nature around you. Try mixing a variety of greens with blue and yellow paint and watch them merge and blend
* Use your doodles and blended watercolours as backgrounds for card making or journaling or use them as a starting point for a more in-depth art piece
* Get to work outdoors. Draw or paint leaves and flowers collected from outdoors or a houseplant if you can’t get outside

**May 2nd – Dawn Chorus Day**

* Take some time to just sit and relax. Free your mind like a bird or listen to the dawn chorus or evening bird song. RSPB have an app you can download to help with bird song recognition. Or you can sketch some birds
* Try drawing with a feather/ quill or write your name or the names of birds
* Make feather prints or a sculptural piece with feathers – like a dreamcatcher
* Use black ink, paint or pens to draw ravens – read the Edgar Allan Poe poem ‘The Raven’ for inspiration

**May 3rd – National Laughter Day** 😊

* Put your hand on your belly and laugh. How does it feel?
* Draw cartoon faces with smiles
* Look in a mirror and draw yourself smiling
* What makes you smile and laugh? Draw something ridiculous 😊

**May 4th – Star Wars Day**

* May the force be with you – draw something out of this World – let your imagination go free fall …………
* Draw a page of stars. Write a name or word of something that makes you feel good inside each star
* Make a vibrant collage of stars on a dark background

**May 5th – Get back to earth with sunshine and sunflowers**

* Now is the time for planting sunflowers for a splash of colour throughout the summer. There are so many different varieties.
* Draw/ paint some sunflowers. Look closely at the seed heads
* Research artists who painted sunflowers and look at their techniques for inspiration. Try different styles and mediums
* Research zentangles and create a zendoodle sunflower. The seed heads in the centre are ideal for doodling patterns. Make a criss-cross pattern in the centre of a sunflower for its seed head and fill each section with a doodle

**May 6th – National beverage/ drinks day**

* Look up artist Guilia Bernardelli who creates amazing artwork from spilled coffee. Make some strong black coffee and use it as paint to make art
* Use a tea bag to stain some music sheet or pages from an old book. You can use these as backgrounds for journaling or to make cards
* Draw with wax crayons or a candle and spill black tea or coffee over the drawing to make a wax resist art piece
* Look up artist Amelia Fais Harnas and her amazing wax and wine portraits
* Look at the world through the bottom of a glass for a different viewpoint
* Look at the reflections in a glass or tumbler and try drawing them
* Pour yourself a drink and relax whilst being creative

**May 7th – Hokusai and the wave**

* Imagine you are relaxing beside the sea. Think about the smells, sounds and everything else that affects your senses
* Do a one-line drawing of a wave and see where your pen or pencil takes you
* If you enjoyed zentangle doodling sunflowers then try some watery doodling
* Use a candle or wax crayon to draw spirals and waves. Cover in a variety of blues. Let the paints merge across the paper to create a flowing seascape
* Throw salt on watercolour seascapes. Rub off when dry for interesting texture

**May 8th – Feeling fruity**

* There are lots of salads and fruits in the shops now to inspire some still life or observational drawing. Maybe cut some fruit in half to draw
* Make a smoothie with the fruit. Look at how the colours blend.
* Check out artists Dennis Wojtkiewicz who paints amazing translucent images of fruit or Arcimboldo who made painted collages of fruit and veg into portraits. Both artists are featured on the Harvest themed pages of living well resources
* Make repeating or symmetrical patterns with fruit, veg or flowers from the garden. Check out the art of land artist Andy Goldsworthy
* Do a secret drawing with lemon juice

**May 9th – Peter Pan Day (J.M.Barrie born 9 May 1860)**

* Design your own NeverNever land
* Draw a pirate ship or some pirate characters
* Draw a mermaid
* Write a message in a bottle

**May 10th – Fred Astaire – born 10 May 1899**

* Draw your feet – very important for dancing!
* Design a costume for a dance spectacular
* Design a poster for a musical Fred Astaire starred in
* Put your feet up and relax whilst watching Fred dance or get motivated to do a dance yourself. Put on your favourite sounds and get some fun exercise

**May 11th – Salvador Dali – born 11 May 1904**

* Dali was fascinated by butterflies. Draw a dance of butterflies
* Try experimenting with facial expressions and adding different types of moustache. Draw a set of ovals and change the expressions on each
* One of Dalis most recognisable paintings is ‘The Persistence of Memory’. If you have clocks around the home try drawing them – maybe try distorting them or drawing from different angles. Can you spot his self-portrait?

**May 12th – National Nurses Day – Florence Nightingale – born 12 May 1820**

* Celebrate Florence Nightingale by drawing an old-fashioned lamp
* Try drawing different parts of your body
* Try drawing with your left hand or drawing blindfold

**May 13th – George Braque – born 13 May 1882**

* Try drawing a portrait of someone famous then using bright, bold colours on top. Maybe copy the portrait and then work on top of the copy to experiment
* Look at where the light and dark areas are on the portrait. Focus on shadows and just draw these in on top of the portrait. Maybe use tracing paper
* Cut a portrait up into six or more pieces and stick them down with a gap between the pieces to see how it looks distorted and abstracted
* Create a line drawing of a face then stick/ collage text from magazines or an old book over the top. Maybe stain the text or drawing with black tea or coffee

**May 14th – Jasper Johns – born May 15 1930**

* One of Johns famous artworks incorporated the American flag (1958 Flag) Take a look at flags around the World. Could you use them in some artwork
* Target -1961 –‘ things that are seen and looked at, not examined’. Look at repetition and the targets concentric circles. Can you create a similar piece?
* Try collaging concentric circles. Try different colour combinations
* Crosshatch patterns are common in zentangle doodles. Create a cross hatch piece like Jasper Johns (Usuyuki 1981)

**May 15th – International Day of Families**

* Find photographs of family members to draw inspiration from
* Draw yourself as a child or draw a childhood memory
* Do you have a family heirloom or treasure you can draw or paint?
* Draw your family tree – how far back can you go?

**May 16th - Sea Monkey Day**

* What is a sea monkey!?! Can you draw one?
* Draw sea shells or sea creatures or inside a rock pool
* Paint different types of seaweed – let the colours merge together
* Celebrate all things nautical. Draw ships and boats
* Listen to some relaxing seaside sounds

**May 17th – telecommunication day – or not!**

* Ignore telecommunication all day today and hand write someone a letter
* Send someone a home-made card
* Imagine what you would hear if you put a sea shell to your ear
* Look up Morse code and write a message to yourself – or someone else
* Look up some hieroglyphics

**May 18th – Museums Day**

* What 10 objects would you choose to represent you in a museum? Draw them or draw a family heirloom
* Artist Janice Lowry makes assemblages out of found objects. Research her work or make your own assemblage in an old frame or in a box
* Draw some fossils
* Choose a historic figure and draw them
* There are all sorts of museums. What sort of museum would you create?

**May 19th – Numeracy Day**

* Cut out numbers from magazines and make a collage
* Make a design using the numbers from your date of birth
* Draw the outline of a number and doodle inside it
* Use black and white to make a pattern like a bar code. Look at the work of artist Bridget Riley for inspiration

**May 20th – Patterns**

* Look at the art of MC Escher and try a tessellating pattern
* Look at optical illusions. Can you draw one
* Make a repeat pattern of circles and squares
* Use squared paper to help design a pattern of an animal – maybe an elephant
* Research patterns in nature – animal skins or foliage

**May 21st - Albrecht Durer – born 21 May 1471**

* Durer made very detailed drawings and etchings

Of people and animals. Choose an animal to draw

* His rhinoceros images are well known. Can you draw a rhino?
* He also drew hares, rabbits and birds. Which would you prefer to draw?
* Can you draw or paint an elephant for the Worcester Big Parade

**May 22nd - Arthur Conan Doyle – born 22 May 1859**

* Make a pattern of words and hide a secret message in it
* Look at nature under a magnifying glass – what details can you see to draw?
* Conan Doyle created the character Sherlock Holmes in1887 for ‘A study in scarlet’. Paint a picture using only hues of red/ scarlet
* Design a cover for an Arthur Conan Doyle novel

**May 23rd – Turtle Day**

* Draw a turtle or other sea creature
* Make waves and seaweed patterns. Listen to water music whilst creating
* Come out of your shell and create an entirely new creature
* What are your top 10 creatures? Draw your favourite. Is it aquatic?

**May 24th – Queen Victoria – born 24 May 1819**

* Draw your profile as if on a stamp or design a stamp fit for royalty
* It’s also National scavenger day. Find objects to draw that begin with the letters of Queen or Victoria or your own name
* Find a collection of things smaller than a stamp
* Write a letter to someone – you will need to use a real stamp for posting!!!

**May 25th - National Towel Day – celebrating Douglas Adams novel - Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy**

* Explore different textures – rough/ smooth hard/soft
* Draw an alien from another galaxy
* Tye dye a towel!
* OR have a relaxing bath and dream of being far, far away

**May 26th – Paper Aeroplane Day**

* Make paper aeroplanes. Try different designs
* Make a target like Jasper Johns painting – big enough to fly your paper aeroplane onto. See if you can hit the target

**May 27th – Transport – planes, trains and automobiles**

* Look at logos for motor companies and redesign one or create a new one
* Can you draw a bicycle – or a tricycle – or a tandem!!
* Draw the pattern of a train track – where will it take you?
* Draw the route by road from your home to……….?

**May 28th – National hamburger Day**

* Draw a burger – maybe design a burger with an interesting filling
* What are your top 10 foods? Draw some of them or draw a plate of food
* Create a drink to go with your burger – what is it called?
* What food would you nominate for its own day – and why! - create a poster to advertise this day

**May 29th – Oak Apple Day**

* Celebration of British Monarchy – Charles II. Draw him hiding in an oak tree
* Draw some oak leaves or an acorn
* Do you know what ‘push penny’ is? Design a coin
* Make coin rubbings or soak a copper coin in cola or ketchup and see what happens

**May 30th – Robert Ryman – born 30 May 1930**

* Ryman was known for his monochrome and white on white paintings. Use thick white paint and make brush strokes on coloured papers
* Find various white papers and rip them up to create a textured collage
* Cut out concentric circles from white and cream papers and layer them
* Draw with chalk on a cream background. Make the same marks on a black background and compare them

**May 31st – Finish on a high**

* Make a kite or buy one and fly it
* What would your home look like from an aerial view?
* Draw the view from an aeroplane window – patchworks of fields?
* If you could fly away – where would you go – draw your ideal location

**Make a list of the themes/ prompts you enjoyed most in the May challenge.**

Hope we left you enough space 😉