

How to use a pencil as a ruler to measure, called sighting:

You can measure whatever you are looking at and compare that with other sections of the still life. To do this you must have your arm straight, one eye closed and the ability to move your thumb up and down the pencil. Using these measurements it is possible to create a very accurate drawing of whatever you see. In this case I use a still life as the starting point, but it could be a landscape or even a person. This art tutorial is designed for beginners and those wanting to improve their drawing.

The way it works is simple.

Your arm must be straight and close on eye.

Hold pencil between little and ring fingers and move thumb up and down. Use the distance from the top of the pencil to the thumb as the measurement.

Imagine photo is a still life sitting on a table. Arm is straight, pencil, too and one eye is closed. Measure longest object.

Now can measure any element or angle of the still life and transfer it, in proportion, to the drawing.

So width of base of candle holder is the same as the height.

Both sides should be equal from the center point.

Don't outline objects as that tends to flatten them, loses the 3D effect.