

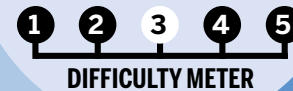
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Art Thief

Heist #11 DRAW A SNOWMAN

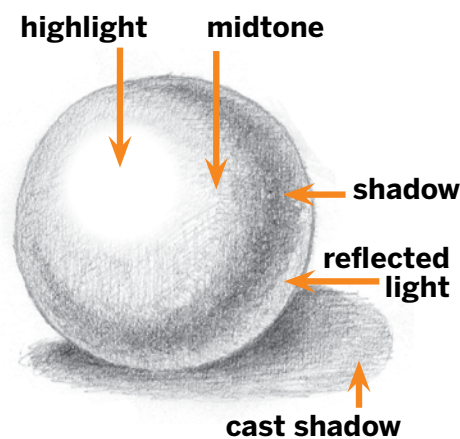
And learn about reflected light



by AMY RAUDENBUSH • art@phillynews.com

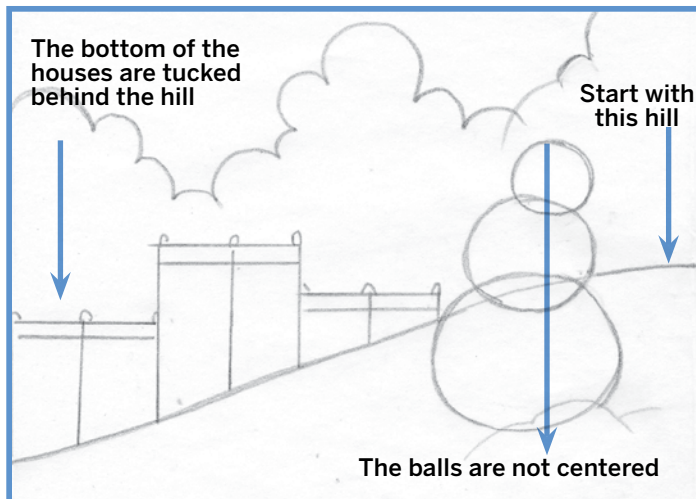
What you need

Pencil, eraser, colored pencils or crayons



Snowballs are spheres

Light falls on spherical objects in a distinct way. In the example above, the light source is high and to the left, which is similar to the position of the sun in our snowman drawing. Notice how the highlight is circular but the shadow and reflected light are crescent-shaped. A sphere will cast an oval shadow that will change according to how high or low the light source is. Have you ever noticed that you cast a much longer shadow in the early morning and late afternoon? That's because the light source (sun) is low in the sky at these times.



1 Draw the slope of the hill with a light pencil line. On the right side, put three overlapping ovals that will become your snowman. Notice how the hill runs into its belly. Houses are tucked behind the hill; you will not see the bottom of the houses. Puffy clouds rise from behind the houses. A small mound of snow is in the foreground. Gently erase all of the overlapping pencil lines.



3 Let your imagination color the brick and trim of the row-homes. Skies tend to become lighter toward the bottom near the horizon, so try blending two or more shades of blue and violet to achieve this effect. The same colors can be used on the crescent-shaped midtones and shadows of the snowman's spheres. If you are careful, you can maintain a little white sliver of reflected light down its right side. The figure and the piles of snow will cast shadows to the right.



2 Now that the snowman looks solid, give him a face, arms, and buttons. A smaller mound of snow can go behind him. Put a hat or cap of your choice on the head (I chose an Eagles cap.) Now is a good time to add detail to the row-homes. Remember, even though the houses are on a hill, the windows and doors are straight up and down.



Since our snowman is enjoying a sunny day, leave large circles of white high-light on its head and body segments.

highlights

reflected light

cast shadow

4 Someone left foot-prints in the snow. They are in shadow because they recede from the bright white surface.

A golden glow can rise from the horizon and reflect softly off the surface of the figure and small areas of snow.

