



with Sharon Jeffus

In this lesson, we are going to study rabbits—a precious subject in art. Using the elements of art, line and shape, we'll define the structure of rabbits, but most important in this lesson, we'll cover texture, another element of art. First, we'll look at paintings by master artists and learn how they interpreted rabbits in nature. Then we'll use the elements of art to create our own pictures. In Project 1, we'll draw rabbits in a garden using lines, shapes and texture to create a lovely composition. In Project 2, we'll continue using lines and shapes to draw cartoon rabbits wearing jackets.

#### Masterpieces Referenced:



Rabbits on a Log, by Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait • 1897



Young Hare, by Albrecht Dürer • 1502



Two Rabbits and a Hedgehog, by Carl Oswald Rostovsky • 1861

**“As I grew older, I realized that it was much better to insist on the genuine forms of nature, for simplicity is the greatest adornment of art.”**

— Albrecht Dürer

### Cartoon Rabbits in Literature:

Look at these wonderful illustrations of rabbits. What are they holding in their hands? Do they look funny wearing clothes? What other rabbits can you name in cartoons?

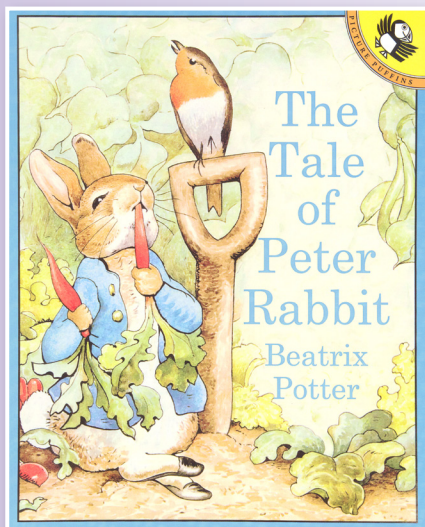


*The Tale of Peter Rabbit*  
Illustrated by Beatrix Potter • 1902



*The White Rabbit from "The Nursery Alice"*  
Illustrated by John Tenniel • 1890

### Sharon's Literature Inspiration:



**“Thank goodness I was never sent to school; it would have rubbed off some of the originality.”**

— Beatrix Potter



## Project 1: Rabbits in a Garden

Create sweet bunnies and a hedgehog using the elements of art: line, shape and texture. With water-based markers and baby wipes, create soft shading and blending of colors. (For a bonus step-by-step of drawing rabbits, see page 5.)

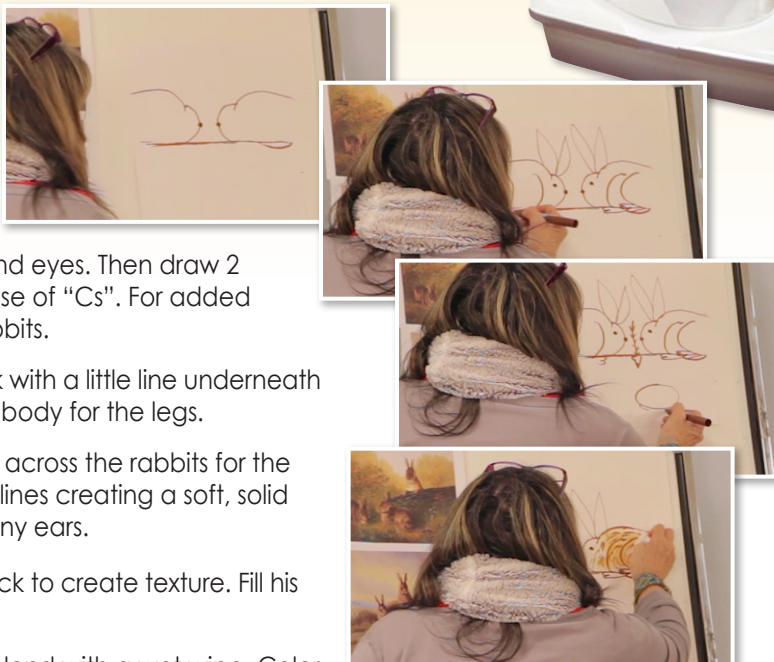
### Materials List:

- Tagboard Paper (12" x 18")
- Markers
- Baby Wipes
- Wiggly Eyes



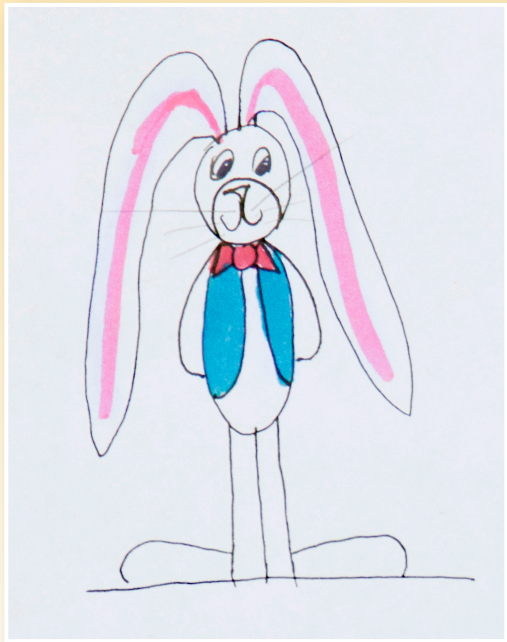
### Let's get started...

1. For a fun drawing space, cut the 12" x 18" paper down to 12" x 12".
2. With a brown marker, draw a line halfway down the paper to create the ground for your rabbits.
3. Draw "Cs" for the heads and oval shapes for your rabbits' bodies. Then draw their noses, ears and eyes. Then draw 2 more "Cs" for the legs and finish the feet at the base of "Cs". For added fun, you could draw a carrot between the two rabbits.
4. Draw a circle/oval shape for the hedgehog's back with a little line underneath for his underbelly. Add little vertical lines under the body for the legs.
5. With your brown marker, draw repeated short lines across the rabbits for the fur texture. Then take a wet wipe and go over the lines creating a soft, solid brown hue under the fur lines. Add pink to the bunny ears.
6. Draw little spiky black lines on your hedgehog's back to create texture. Fill his underneath with brown.
7. Finish the picture by adding green grass lines and blend with a wet wipe. Color in your carrot and add a sun and clouds in the sky. Attach wiggle eyes (use glue if not self-adhesive) to your rabbits and hedgehogs for a whimsical effect.



### Sharon's Garden Rabbits:





## Project 2: Cartoon Rabbits

Let's make animated cartoon drawings of rabbits using lines and shapes. Adding a construction paper jacket and metal marker details creates a fun, multi-media piece of artwork.

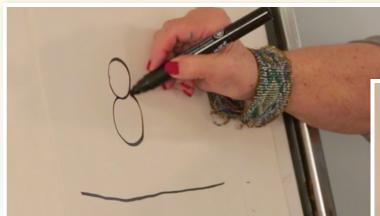
### Materials List:

- White Paper (9" x 12")
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Construction Paper
- Metallic Markers

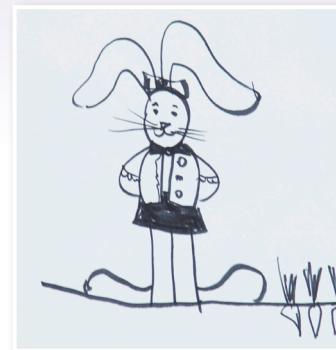


### Let's get started...

1. With your paper vertical, draw a black line at the bottom of paper for the rabbit to stand on.
2. Draw a circle for the rabbit's head, an oval for the body and 3 lines for the legs. Add big rabbit feet on the sides of each line and big ears from the head. Add a line on each side of body to look like his hands are behind his body.
3. Draw a nose, mouth and eyes on the face. Then draw a little jacket with buttons on the rabbit. Add whiskers to the face and carrots in the ground for the finishing details. You could even add a bow tie to the rabbit.
4. Color in the rabbit with markers. For added dimension, cut a blue jacket out of construction paper and glue onto the rabbit.
5. Add buttons and detailed lines with metallic markers on the construction paper for the finishing touches.



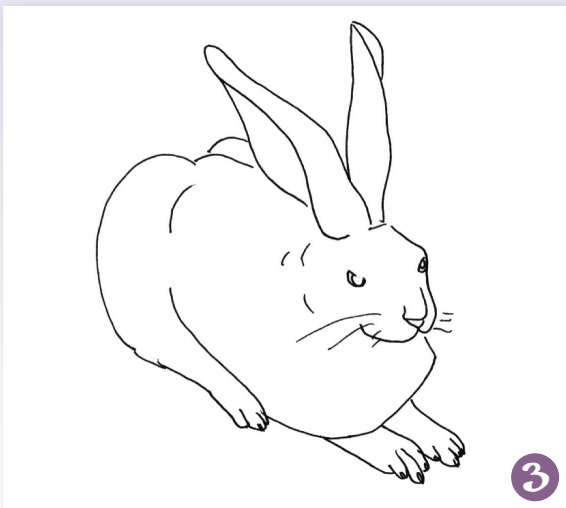
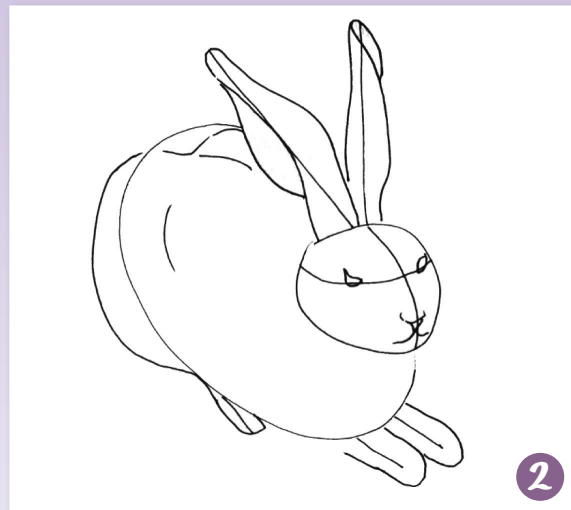
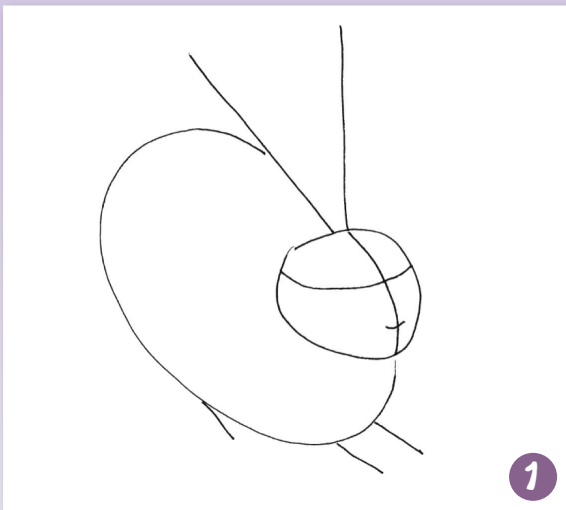
### Sharon's Cartoon Rabbits:





### *Bonus:* Step-by-Step Rabbit Drawing

1. Start by drawing a circle in pencil for the head. Then draw an oval for the body. Next draw cross lines for the contour of the face and draw a small horizontal line for the nose. Then draw the center lines for the rabbit's legs and ears.
2. Draw in the eyes and finish the mouth. Then draw the outside contour lines of the ears and legs.
3. Erase the initial center contour lines of the face, legs and ears. Next draw in the details of the rabbit's whiskers, toes and nails.
4. Finish by adding a fur texture to your rabbit with pencil or even colored pencils. Think of how soft the rabbit fur must feel. Then add detail to the eyes, nose and more whiskers to the face.



*Project 1:* Sharon's Finished Artwork



Project 1: Students' Finished Artwork

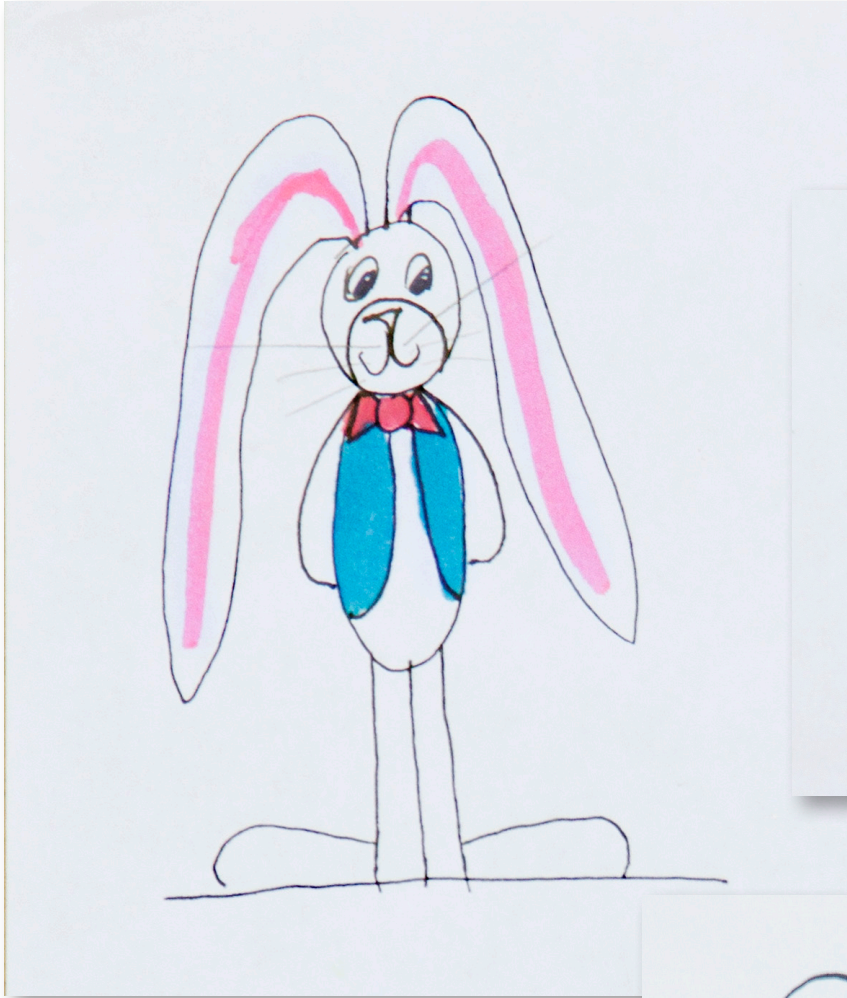


Cheyen • Age 8



Ramsey • Age 4

*Project 2:* Sharon's Finished Artwork





Project 2: Students' Finished Artwork

Cheyen • Age 8



Ramsey • Age 4

