

DRAW LIKE AN EGYPTIAN: USING CANON OF HUMAN PROPORTION

TECHNIQUE

mixed (watercolors and colored pencils)

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- watercolors,
- plastic cup,
- sheet of paper,
- pencil,
- colored pencils,
- brush,
- ruler
- glue,
- scissors

In this activity we propose you to draw a character as an Egyptian painter would have done.

The painters of ancient Egypt respected very **precise proportions** when representing the human figure.

As you can see from the images on the left, the artists used a **squared grid** built on a unit of measurement that corresponded to the **size of the fist**.

Within the grid, each part of the body had a dened size.

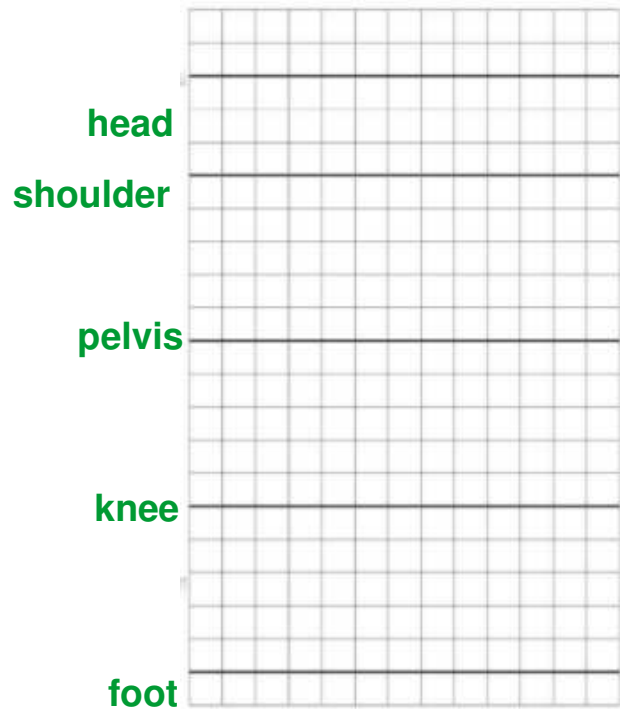
In addition, the head, legs and feet were always **seen from the side**, while the shoulders and the eye were **represented frontally**.



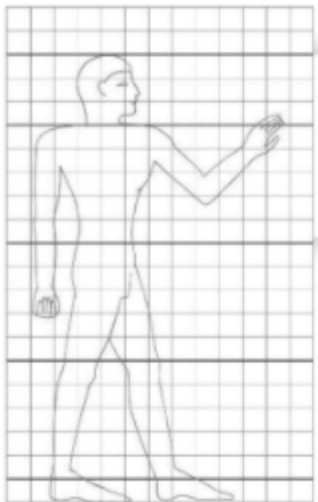
HOW TO DRAW

1. On a squared grid find the position and size of the main body parts on the grid, following the table below

Body part	Squares
Face	2
Neck, face and hair	3
Shoulder width	6
Pelvis width	3
Hand open	1x2
Forearm and closed fist	4
Arm and forearm	7
Full arm and hand	8 or 9
Leg from knee to ankle	5
Thigh	4
Foot	3,5 x 1



2. Draw the body of your character, male or female:

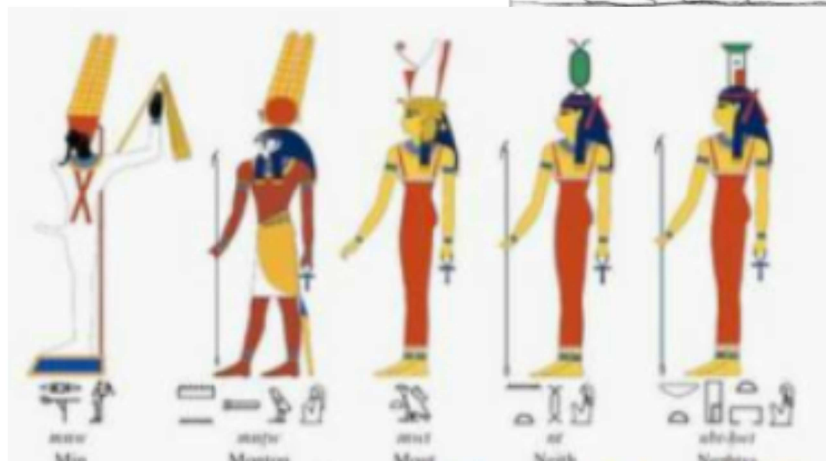


women are identified by their light skin tone and with both feet together;

men are identified by their darker skin tone and with their left foot stepped forward.



3. Cut and glue the character on a white sheet of paper, dress it inspired by the images.



4. Paint on both the figure and the background.
 Identify which colors are most used in Egyptian paintings and use them for your character too.



Ancient Egyptians believed colors had meanings:

- Red** = Life and victory but also anger and fire
- Yellow/Gold** = Gold is everlasting and indestructible
- Blue** = The sky, water (Nile River) and primeval flood (creation); rebirth and fertility
- Black** = Color of the death but also rebirth (afterlife)
- White** = Associated with omnipotence
- Green** = New growth, good health, life and rejuvenation



5. With colored pencils, finish the details of the figure.
 Review with black pencil the contours of the character, which in Egyptian paintings are always well defined.

6. On the background write your name with hieroglyphs.

