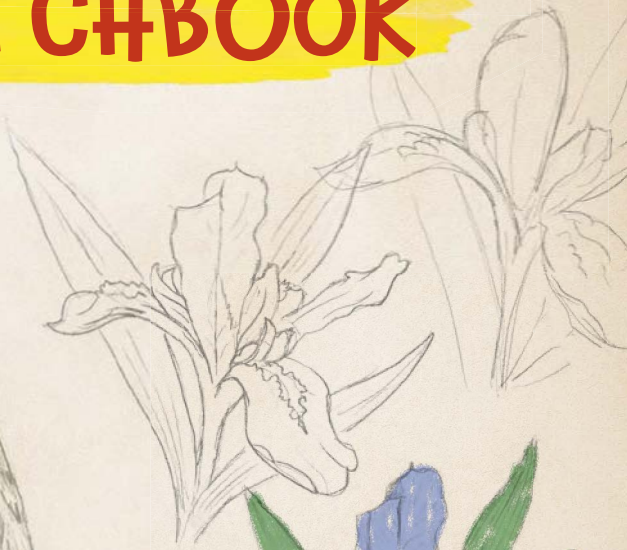
Nature Explorer

SKETCHBOOK



Jenny deFouw Geuder

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"All art starts small—whether it's a sketch of an eagle soaring or a painting of a wildflower. This sketchbook is yours for the art you want to make: whether you want to learn to draw birds, trace flowers, record your observations, or just doodle! Along the way, I'll provide occasional prompts and tips to guide you!"

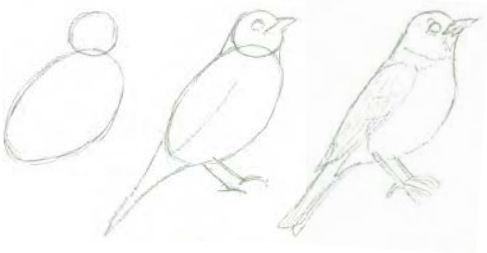
Jenny deFouw Geuder

TIP

Draw light until you know you've gotten it right! If you have a hard time drawing lightly, try moving your hand up your pencil (closer to the eraser).

TIP

If something looks difficult to draw, try to simplify it to two or three basic shapes. The head might be a circle, the body an oval, and so on. Then look at the proportions of those shapes—how **BIG** is the body compared to the head?



Drawing is a lot like playing a sport: you have to teach your muscles how to work as a team with your eyes. The more you practice, the more you will get comfortable using your pencil, seeing an object proportionally, and recording it the way you want!

Try drawing many versions of the same thing: like lots of birds, different leaf shapes, different flowers, and so on.

Try using different materials than you usually do:
switch to a pen, or markers, or oil pastels.

Trying new things helps

you GROW as an artist.

TIP

Try drawing something small really LARGE!
Look for the little details.

TIP Try drawing just part of something, ZOOMED in.

Try drawing or painting the same spot,
but at different times of the day or year.

Don't be afraid of mistakes! Every "mistake" is a lesson—learn from it!

To get the best view of flowers or small features on dragonflies and the like, bring along a small magnifying glass. A digital camera can help too!

About the Author

Jenny deFouw Geuder is an artist and teacher from Michigan. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in art education (and minored in English). She has been a middle school teacher for 16 years, and she's never stopped making art. She usually paints with watercolors, but she enjoys working with other paints and materials too. She lives in the country with her husband, two small boys, a dog, five cats, a hedgehog, chickens, and occasionally two ponies.

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Let Nature Ignite Your Imagination!

Find inspiration in nature. Unlock your inner artist, writer, and naturalist. Become a nature explorer with acclaimed watercolorist and art teacher Jenny deFouw Geuder. The *Nature Explorer Sketchbook* provides a creative outlet for expressing yourself through artwork and written observations. Plus, this beautiful keepsake instills an appreciation for the great outdoors.

SKETCHBOOK FEATURES

- Sketchbook that's perfect for drawing and doodling
- Prompts and tips that are proven to help kids get started
- Demonstrations of a number of simple techniques encourage young artists
- Journal for everything from taking field notes to writing poetry

Nature Explorer is a kids' guide to observing and interacting with the natural world. It's a perfect companion for the *Nature Explorer Sketchbook*.

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