

Smooth Speckled Egg



Employ contour hatching to capture the texture, pattern, and form of an egg as defined by a specific light source

Resource: Module 3.1 Introduction to Shading

Supplies: paper, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, and 6B pencils, pencil sharpener, sandpaper block, vinyl and kneaded erasers

This activity has four sections:

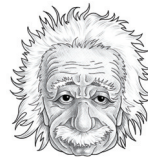
- Identify Light and Shadow
- Sketch and Outline an Egg
- Plan a Shading Strategy
- Shade Form, Texture, Pattern, and Shadow

Identify Light and Shadow

The light source originates from the upper left in this drawing of an egg.

Examine the sections of shading that capture the following four components of light and shadow (Figure 1 on the next page):

1. **Highlight:** The center is left mostly white to identify the brightest section of the surface of the egg. The values surrounding the highlight are light in value.



ArtSpeak

Texture: The surface details of an object that can be identified by sight, touch, and/or a general knowledge of the subject.

Smooth: A texture with very few surface features. A hand run over a smooth surface feels little or no unevenness or roughness.

Pattern: The visual arrangement of the different values of a drawing subject as represented by lines and/or shading.



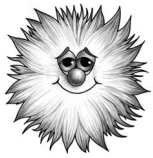
Tip!

Always place a piece of clean paper under your hand as you draw.

Each time you work on a new section, remember to move your paper so it's always under your hand.

This prevents you from smudging your drawing, and protects the paper from the oils in your skin.

2. **Shadow:** The sections on the surface of the egg that receive little or no light are shaded with medium and dark values.
3. **Reflected light:** The rim of light along the underside of the egg is lighter in value than the shadow sections, but darker than the sections close to the highlight. This diffused light is reflected back onto the under edge of the egg from the white table on which it sits.
4. **Cast shadow:** The cast shadow is created by the egg blocking the light from reaching this section of the table top. The values are very dark next to the egg and graduate lighter outward, where a little more light filters through.



As an Aside

Cast shadows tend to take on the shapes of the forms that are blocking the light. However, the shapes of shadows can also be affected by the surface on which the shadow is cast.

For example, if the cast shadow of a tall man is on uneven or bumpy land, his shadow will be shaped by the contours of the land.

Figure 1

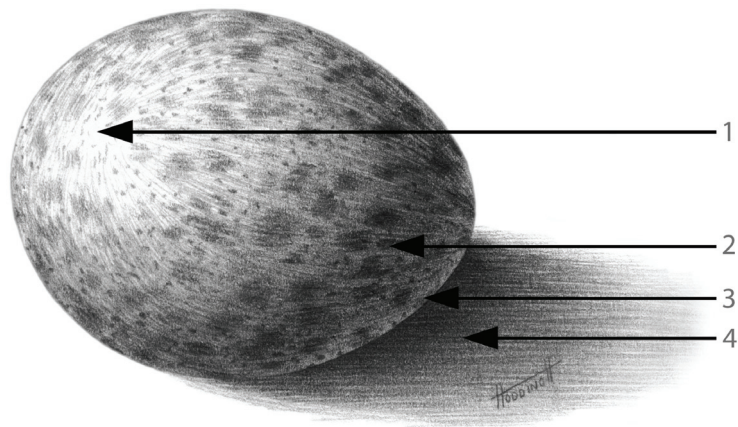


Figure 2

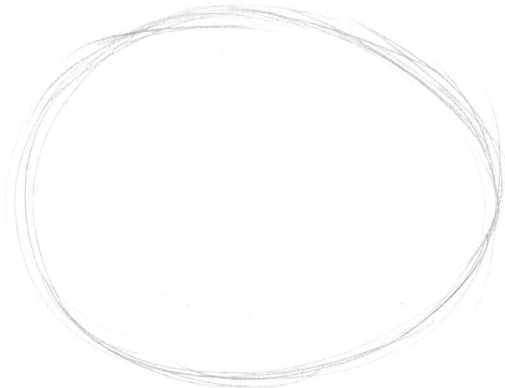
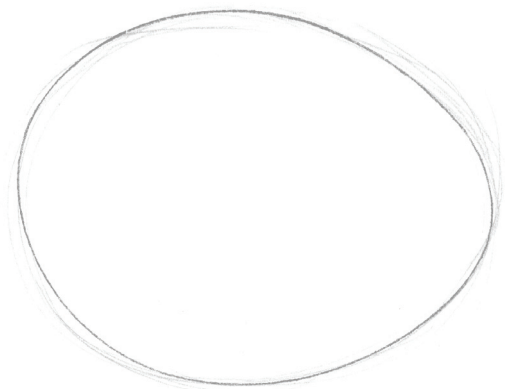


Figure 3



Sketch and Outline an Egg

1. **Lightly sketch an egg shape (Figure 2).**

Keep your sketch lines very light. The lines in Figures 2 to 5 were darkened in Photoshop.

2. **Use a freshly-sharpened HB pencil to neatly outline the shape of the egg (Figure 3).**

Don't forget that you can rotate your paper/sketchbook as you draw.

3. **Use your kneaded eraser to lighten or erase the rough sketch lines.**

Refer to Figure 4 on the next page. You may need to redraw any sections of the outline that were inadvertently erased.

- Pat your contour drawing with a kneaded eraser until the lines are very faint.

Plan a Shading Strategy

- Add a few curved lines to map the directions in which the contour hatching lines need to curve (Figure 5).

These mapping lines follow the perceived contours of the three-dimensional forms of the egg.

Shade Form, Texture, Pattern, and Shadow

- Add light and medium values to the egg (Figure 6).

The center of the highlight is left white.

The shading begins very light around the edge of the highlight (2H and HB pencils) and gradually darkens farther away from the light (HB and 2B pencils).

The reflected light is also shaded with light values.

Figure 4

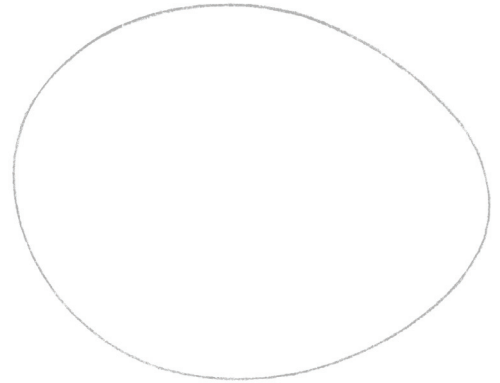


Figure 5

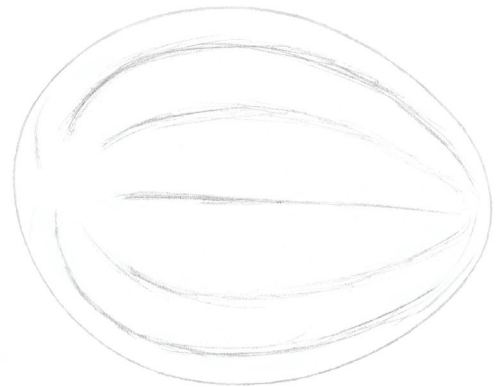


Figure 6

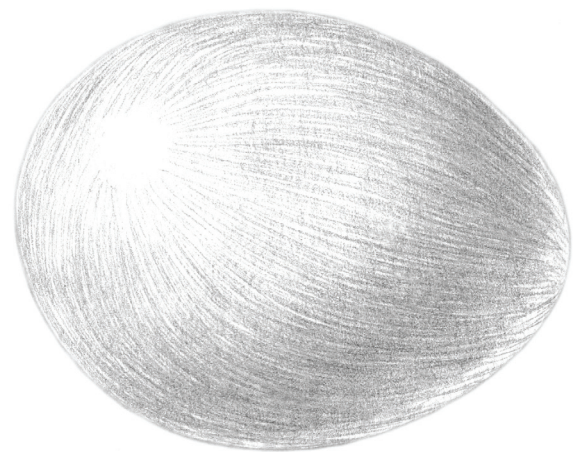
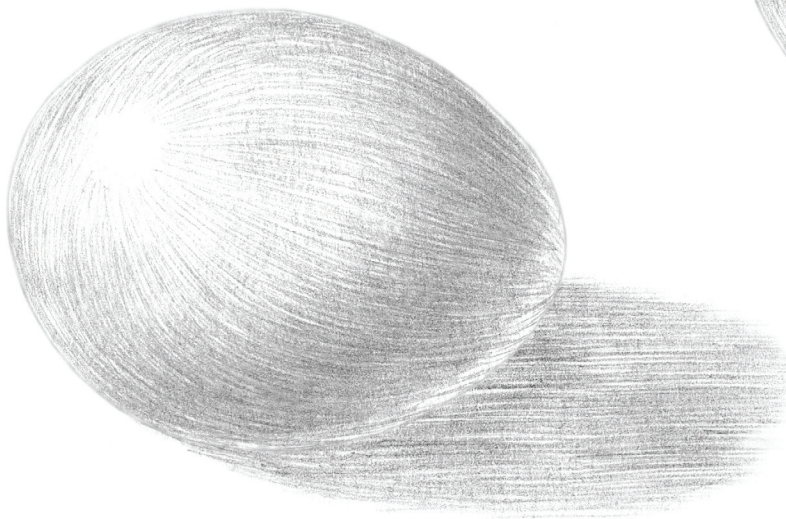
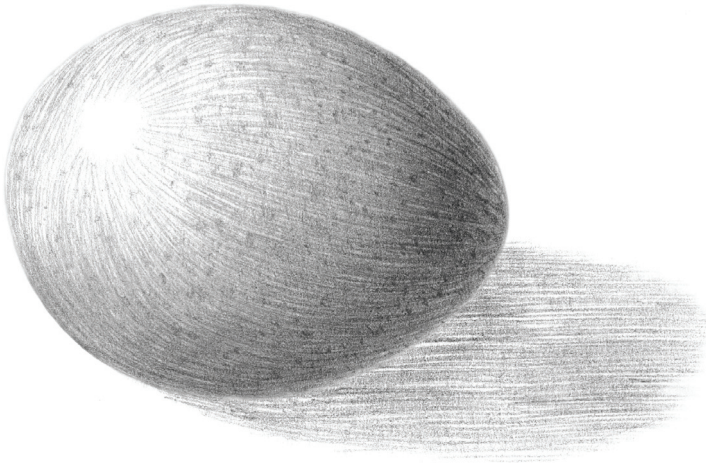


Figure 7



- Use horizontal, straight hatching lines and HB and 2B pencils to shade the light values of the cast shadow and define its shape (Figure 7).

Figure 8



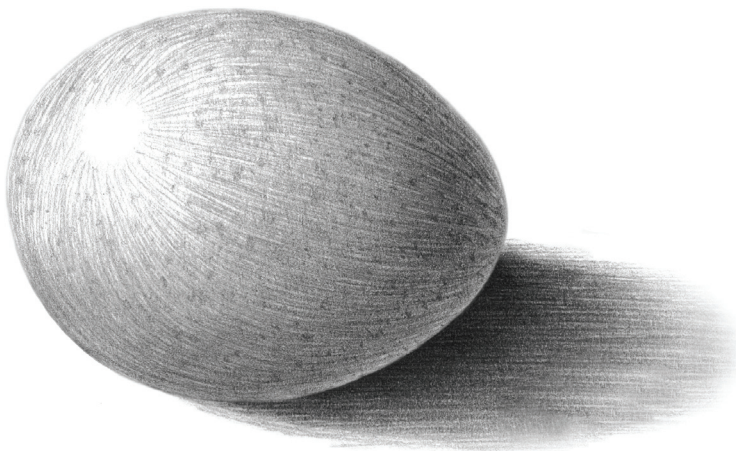
- 8. Add medium and dark values to the shadow sections of the egg (Figure 8).**

The curved hatching lines in the darkest shadow sections (2B and 4B pencils) are very close together with hardly any of the white paper showing through.

- 9. Add a few tiny spots all over the egg.**

Note that these spots are light in the sections close to the light source and darker in the shadow sections.

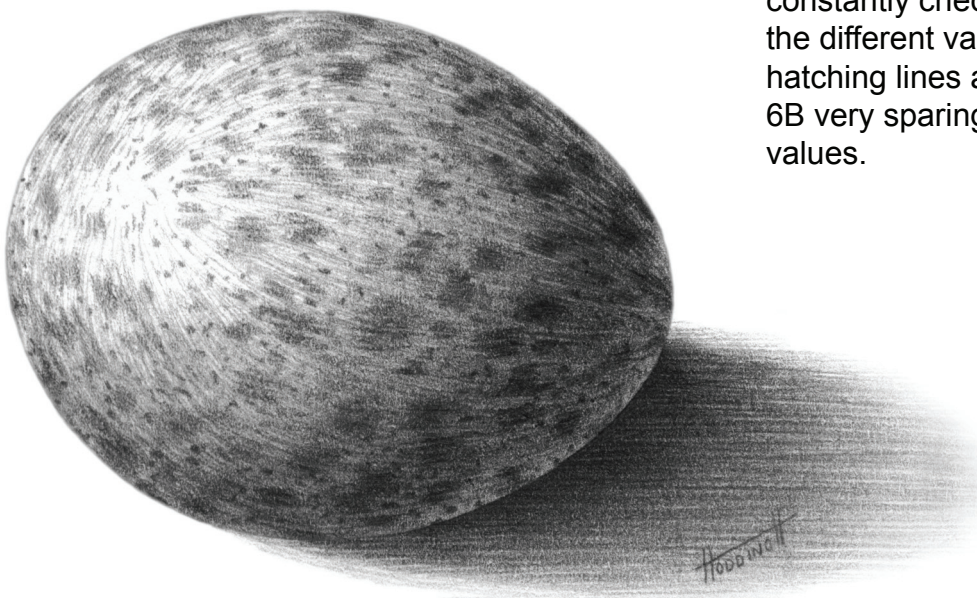
Figure 9



- 10. Add a graduation of medium and dark values to the cast shadow (Figures 9 and 10).**

The values of the cast shadow (HB, 2B, 4B, and 6B pencils) are darkest next to the egg's lower edge and become gradually lighter farther away from the edge of the egg.

Figure 10



As you add the dark shading, constantly check the transition between the different values and adjust the hatching lines as needed. Use the 6B very sparingly for the very darkest values.

- 11. Add larger, bolder spots to the egg (Figure 10).**

Use HB, 2B, 4B, and 6B pencils. Remember: the spots are darker in the shadow sections.