

How to Create a Scientific Drawing

The communication of ideas is an important part of our everyday lives. One of the ways that scientists communicate is to use drawings. It is important to make a scientific drawing clear, neat, and accurate.

What to Do

1. Use unlined paper and a sharp pencil. You will also need a ruler and make sure you use a good quality eraser to make your corrections.
2. Give yourself plenty of space. Your diagram should be at least 1/2 page in size. Even though your plant or animal cell is small, you still want to have the space to add labels and captions to your drawing.
3. Labels identify the parts of the object you are drawing. Place labels on the right your drawing unless putting them all on the one side would make your drawing cluttered. Use your ruler to draw lines to the different structures. Make sure none of your label lines cross.
4. Draw only what you see and keep your drawing simple.
5. Shading or coloring is not usually found on scientific drawings. If you want to indicate a darker area, you can use stippling (a series of dots).
6. If you do use colors, try to be as accurate as you can. Choose ones that are as close as possible to the color of the organelles found in your cell.
7. Label the different structures carefully. Go back to the **vocabulary** in the investigation if you are not sure how to spell the names of the different structures.
8. Give your drawing a title. You can also include the scale of your drawing.

Adapted from Worm Watch

At <http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/wormwatch/resources/drawing.html>

