

Drawing for Recording Science

Drawing has long been a method of recording Science, often called Natural History in past times.

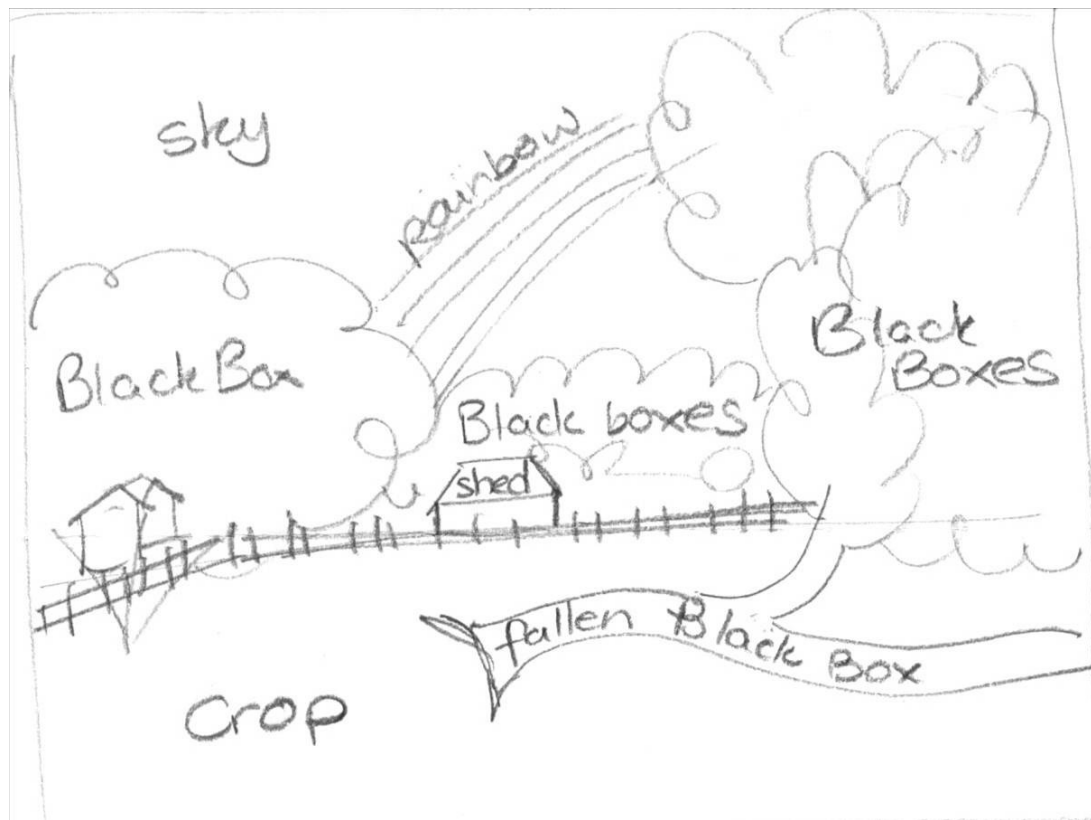
So how do we use drawing for Science rather than Art? When a drawing is done for Science, it is done to record what is there. So, it's

- how the drawing is done, and
- what is recorded with it
 - who did the record, where and when it was done
 - labels for features
 - description about the observations

Let me use this scene to show how this can be done:



- 1 Carefully observe the Science in the scene – look to see which of some of the features on the What's in an environment page are here.
- 2 Do a line drawing first
- 3 Draw the horizon first! You may also want to draw a border to limit the size of the drawing.
- 4 Look for major shapes and sizes. Use symbols in the drawing. Labels can be added. Don't stress yourself by trying to make it Art!



- 5 When you are happy with the recording of the scene, you can then look at how it looks as a drawing. You might want to add black text or biro to outline it, colour it, if that is an advantage. If you want to trace it, try putting a clean sheet of paper over it while holding them both against a window.
- 6 Finish it off by ruling a box around it and putting where it is, your name and date it records.



7 If you don't have labels on the drawing, make a key for it. Below is a key for this drawing, as an example.

Key for observation for East View of Our Farm, Winter 2008

Sphere (major part)	Symbol	Features seen and drawn (observed and recorded and with symbols)	
Horizon		treeline meets sky	
Infrastructure (man-made)		sheds	
		fences	
Four main parts of the environment recorded			
Atmosphere (Air features)		blue sky	cold air felt
		rainbow	after rain smell
Lithosphere (Land features)		plain	ground
Biosphere (Living things)		Black Box Trees	Mallee Spadefoot Frogs heard
		Barley Crop	Kookaburras heard
Hydrosphere (Water features)			water droplets are dripping off leaves
			water has collected in crop crab-holes

8 The reporting is about telling others what you have found out. What would you put in a report? A scientific report should include the all the observations, but putting them into groups. In this example, it might be reporting how many features were in this landscape for each sphere.

There were seven physical features that could be seen at this distance: two of the atmosphere, one of lithosphere and two of the biosphere. Using hearing, there were two more features of the biosphere; using touch, one more, and smell one more. Looking up close, there were three more features. This meant there were 12 natural features and two man-made ones in this winter 2008 Wimmera farm landscape.

You report might look different to this, just check it covers all the data (observations) you have made.

Now you know how to use drawings for Science.

Of course, you can also use it for an Art Project too!

This activity helps



in the



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