

ACTIVITY 2G: BONE PERSPECTIVES

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Show students various drawings or transparencies that have been made to illustrate the parts of bone, e.g., line drawings, medical illustrations, and photographs. Then put them away! In this activity, students will prepare detailed anatomical drawings of bone — using their journal sketches and real specimens.

Divide students into groups — one group for each bone specimen you may have.

Place the specimen in the center of the group. Have each group member prepare a detailed anatomical drawing of the bone assigned— drawn **from their perspective**. Label parts they deem significant.

Have students compare their drawings to those of classmates and to “textbook” drawings. Discuss what makes an anatomical drawing “good.” Ideas may center around understanding the perspective of the artist, orientation of the specimen relative to its location in the body, accuracy, detail (too much, too little), view—dorsal, ventral, posterior to, anterior to, and so forth. Discuss “Medical Illustrator” as a career. Discuss how useful drawings can be when learning about the human body. Sometimes in their studies, the “real thing” will not be available to students, but a good drawing can help them understand.

Display student artwork in the classroom.

By having students see, touch, and sketch the real thing, they should become more appreciative of the sketches and drawings in their texts and handouts. Students should also become better able to envision the “dimensionality” of the object in the drawing that is typically not evident in simple line drawings.

MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION AS A CAREER

Medical illustration is art as applied to medicine, a joining of science and the graphic image. Medical illustration is used effectively in advertising, editorial, institutional and instructional materials. It is also at the forefront of newly emerging markets, such as legal exhibits and home health care.

The majority of medical illustrators in the United States and Canada have a master’s degree from an accredited graduate program in medical illustration. High school students contemplating medical illustration as a career should take a college preparatory program with as much emphasis on art and science as possible. In college, a bachelor’s degree with a major in art and a minor in science, or a major in science and a minor in art is preferred.