

WANTED!



Name _____

Vital Statistics _____

Age _____

Hair Colour _____

Eye colour _____

Distinguishing features _____

Wanted for:

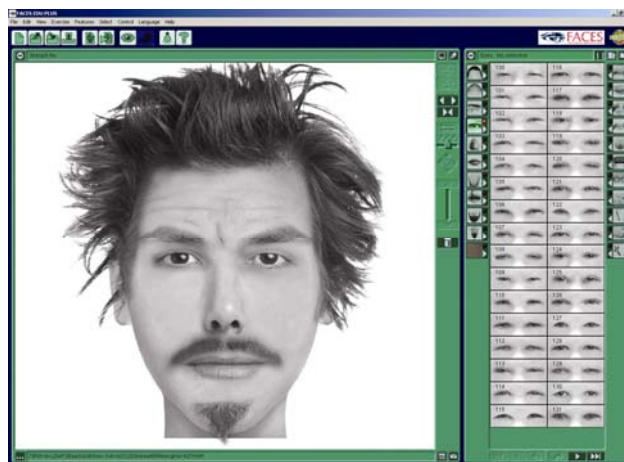
LESSON 7: RESOURCE 3 COMPOSITE DRAWINGS

BACKGROUND

If the witness is unable to identify the suspect from the photographs on file, the police may attempt to create a sketch or composite picture of the suspect. In 1913, the Police Department would have had to employ an artist to create a drawing of the suspect based on the witness' recollection. In about 1961, the Calgary Police Service received a facial identification kit developed by the RCMP. This kit contained clear plastic sheets that had facial characteristics already drawn on them. Starting with the facial shape, other characteristics such as eyes, ears, nose, mouth and hair are added one on top of another to create a complete face. Adjustments to the face can be made without erasing and redrawing. Another advantage to the kit was that, with a little practice, anyone could use it. In the 1970s, composite kits used photographs of real people rather than drawings to create more accurate composite pictures.

Today, computers are used to create composite images. The result is a detailed and amazingly accurate picture of the suspect. These computer images can be easily adjusted to show what the suspect would look like in a disguise or with an altered appearance. This type of computer imagery is also used in the search for children who have been missing for a number of years. In this case, a photograph of the child can be aged in order to show what he/she may now look like as a teenager or an adult.

The talents of a composite artist are rarely used unless the crime is very serious with a potentially dangerous threat to the public. Then, the artist will be brought in so that the public and officers can have a more substantial description to go on. The artist is able to work closely with witnesses and is able to 'read' body language to gain insight that can augment the drawing.



COMPOSITE DRAWING ACTIVITY

Instructions - Step One

Give students these general directions for designing a basic face and have them sketch in the general outlines of a face as you speak. Project the sample **Composite Drawing Activity Sheet** template onto the board and discuss:

Face Shape

- Begin with the oval shape on the **Composite Drawing Activity Sheet**. This can be adjusted as you work to incorporate the chin, ears and hairline.
- Draw a 'T' in the centre of the face. The cross of the 'T' should be located in the centre of the oval.

Eyes

- The eyes are located on the horizontal arms of the 'T'. The distance between the eyes is one eye width apart.
- The eyes are located with one eye on either side of the vertical line where it intersects with the horizontal line.
- Mark the centre of the eye to locate the pupil area.

Nose

- The nose is located on the vertical line. It ends between half and one-third of the way from the eye to the chin.
- To determine the width of the bottom of the nose, have the students lay their fingers vertically along the side of their nose and point their fingers upwards. They will find that the bottom width of the nose is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes measuring from the inner corner of one eye to the inner corner of the other.

Mouth

- The mouth straddles across the vertical line.
- The centre line of the mouth is located about one-third of the way down between the bottom of the nose and the chin line.
- To determine the width of the mouth, have the students place their fingers pointing upward on the corner of their mouths. They will find that their mouths are centered between the two centre points of their pupils.

Ears

- To locate the position for the top of the ears, have students trace a line with their fingers from the top of their ears towards the centre of their faces. They will find that their ears start at the same height as their eyes.
- If they trace a line from the bottom of the ears toward the centre of the face, it will end at a place between the mouth and the bottom of the nose.

Neck

- The neck is almost as wide as the jawline. On a portrait, the neck is drawn beginning at a point just below the ears.

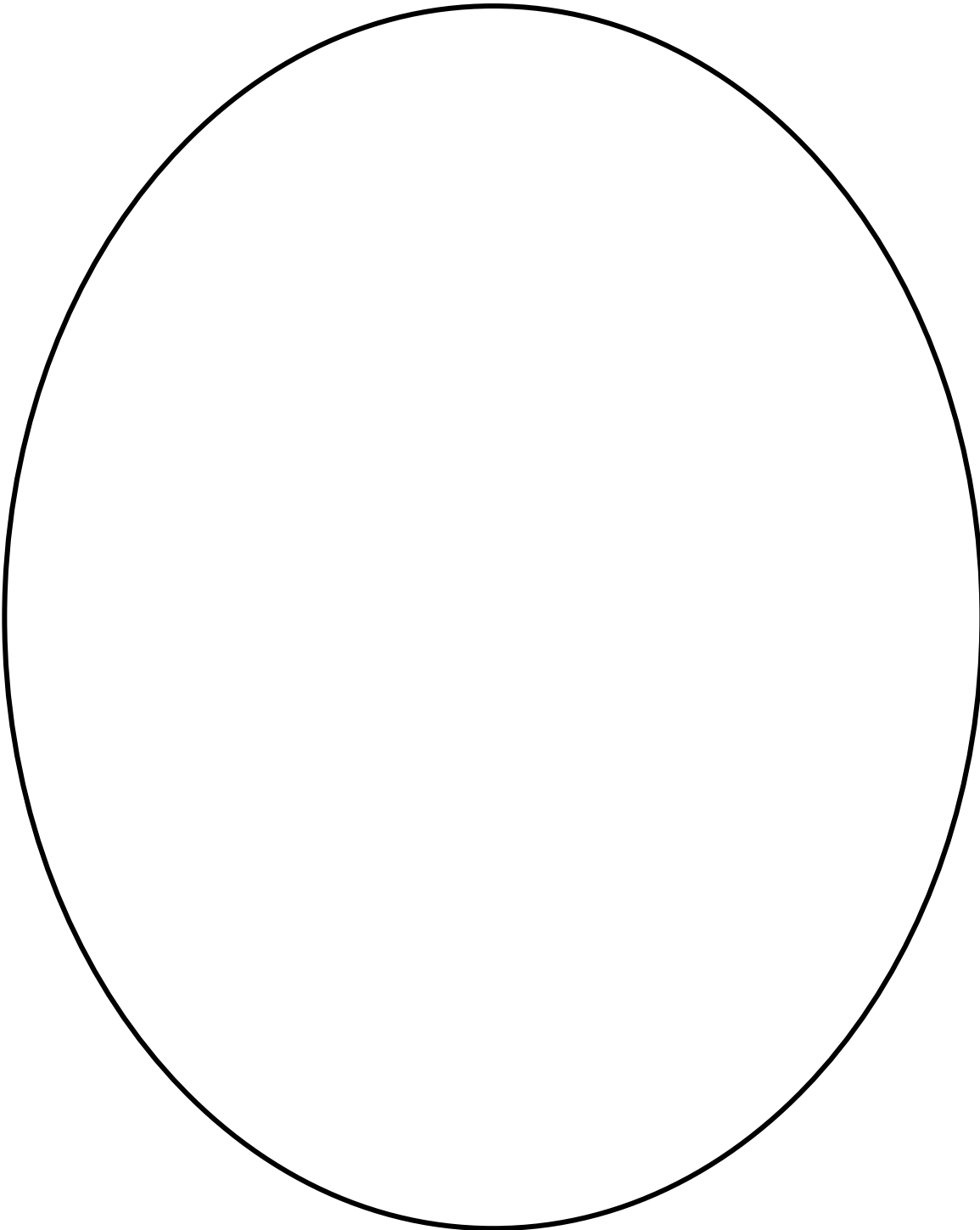
Step Two

- Have the students divide into groups of three. One student is the model, one describes the model, and one draws the composite. Give the students 15 minutes to add details from the description to their basic drawing from Step One.
- Have the students switch roles in their group, twice, so that each student has a chance to create a composite of a fellow student.

For Your Consideration

- Is the suspect male or female?
- What is the suspect's ethnic background? A suspect's ethnic background may determine the shape and slant of the eyes as well as the shape of the nose and the colour of both the skin and hair.
- How old is the suspect?
- What is the shape of the eyes, nose, mouth, chin, hairline, etc?
- How long is the suspect's hair? What hairstyle would be appropriate/fashionable for the current year?
- What colour is the hair? How much hair might the suspect have, given his or her age?
- What other factors would you need to consider?
- You may wish to study your classmates to determine the features you would like to use for your suspect.

COMPOSITE DRAWING ACTIVITY SHEET



Artist's Name: _____

Suspect's Name: _____