

# Rules for Scientific Lab Drawings

Scientific drawings are meant to serve as a record of your scientific observations, usually in a lab or field setting. They should be done carefully and with precision to have an accurate record of your observations for later reference.

- Draw with pencil on plain paper
- Draw as large as your page will allow with room left for labels.
- Position your drawing to the left of center, leaving room for labels.
- The primary outline and features are more important than secondary details like shading and color.
- Use dots (stippling) to show depth instead of shading.
- Draw using clear continuous lines, not rough sketching lines.
- Draw from direct observation, not from memory.
- Label identifiable parts using a solid straight line.
- Your lines should not crisscross.
- Label lines should touch the feature being labeled.
- There should be no arrow heads. Even if you like them...
- Should include a label and description.
- If applicable include a magnification.

# Rules for Scientific Illustrations

- Draw as large as your page will allow with room left for labels.
- Draw from direct observation, not from memory.
- Position your drawing to the left of center, leaving room for labels.
- Your lines should not crisscross.
- If drawing a plant, acquire a specimen that has all parts and arrange it in a way that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional for identification of parts.
- Use color in a way that is representative of what you observe.
- Begin by accurately drawing the outline before adding internal details.