

Cartoon challenge

Children's University Tasmania members can earn up to 10 hours in their *Passports to Learning* for this fun drawing challenge.



TASMANIAN cartoonist John 'Polly' Farmer believes drawing is something everyone should do.

"I think drawing is one of the best creative outlets there is and would encourage everyone to have a go," John said.

With John's help, Children's University Tasmania has put together a series of drawing challenges to inspire CU members and potentially earn up to 10 hours in their passports.

In the following pages you will be encouraged to practice some drawing techniques, attempt a self portrait and have a go at creating some caricatures, cartoons or even comic strips of your own.

John didn't set out to become a cartoonist, but at the age of seven or eight laid his eyes on *Asterix the Gaul*, the first book in the Asterix comic book series by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo.

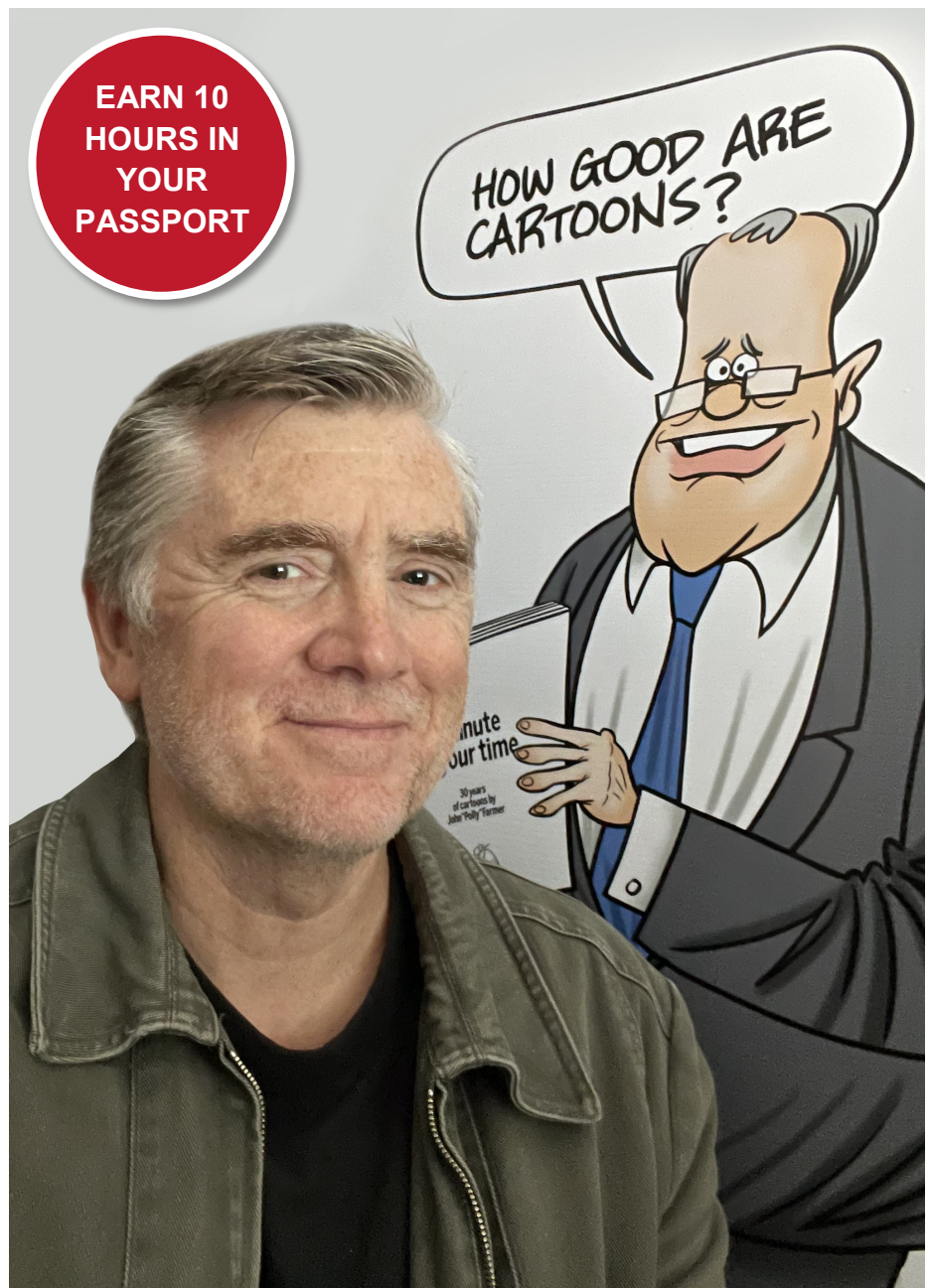
"I was very impressed by the beauty of the linework and the cleverness of the characters' names," he said.

With practice and patience, John learned some of the fundamentals of drawing such as perspective and proportion.

But he still never imagined he would one-day become a professional cartoonist.

In 1984 he landed a part-time job in the *Mercury* advertising department drawing houses for real estate advertising.

To his great surprise, John was then given the opportunity to draw two political cartoons a week for the



newspaper, and he never looked back.

John went on to become head artist at the *Mercury*, and has drawn thousands of cartoons and caricatures since then.

He is now working as a freelance artist.

Drawing political cartoons requires him to come up with an idea that is thought-provoking and generally funny, but occasionally serious.

It all starts with a shape

If you are a regular reader of *The Wonder Weekly* you will be aware that John 'Polly' Farmer supplies puzzles and other activities on a regular basis.

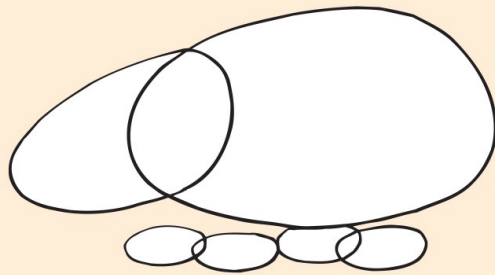
John also created the very cool caricature of *The Wonder Weekly* mascot, Professor Finn, the red handfish.

He says a few basic shapes can be a great starting point for drawing any subject, including animals and animal caricatures.

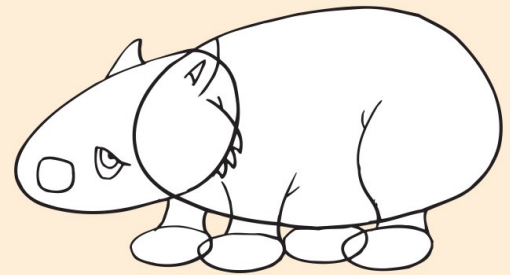
Follow the instructions for the "How to draw" examples John has provide to earn up to **two hours** in your passport.

Start with a pencil to draw the outlines, and you can then use a felt pen, textas or coloured pencils to add detail.

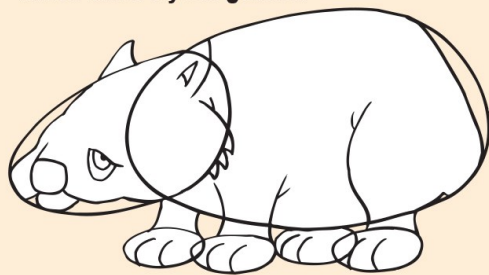
How to draw a WOMBAT



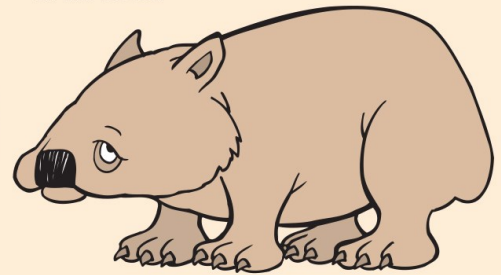
Using a pencil draw a large oval for your wombat's body. Then draw a medium sized oval for his head and four small ovals for his feet as shown above. These will be your guides.



Draw lines for legs down to each of his feet. Add his ears and give him an eye. Draw a small round-cornered square for his nose and some 'v' shapes on the side of his head.

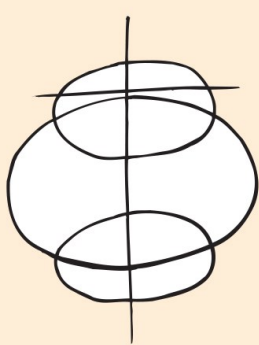


Finish off the shape of his head and give him a mouth. Draw a line on the right side of the large oval to finish his body and give him some toes.

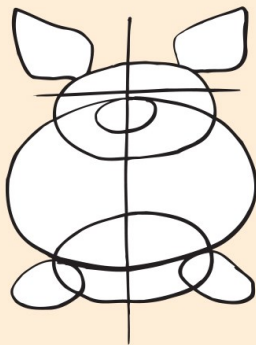


Add claws and give him an eyebrow. Rub out the lines you don't want, then ink him in with a pen or fine tipped texta. To finish, just add some colour.

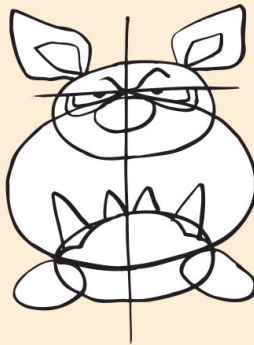
How to draw a TASMANIAN DEVIL



Using a pencil draw a large oval and two small ovals and then put lines through them as shown above. These will be your guides.



On the top oval draw two ears. Draw a small circle below the line for a nose and a small circle on either side of the bottom oval for his front paws.



Add his eyes and the inside of his ears. Draw the shape of his mouth inside the bottom oval and add the teeth.



Draw the shape of his head and muzzle inside the top two ovals. Finish his nose, add his toes and you're just about there.



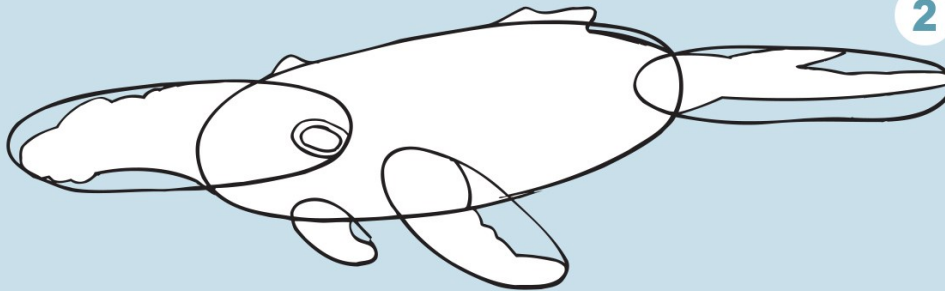
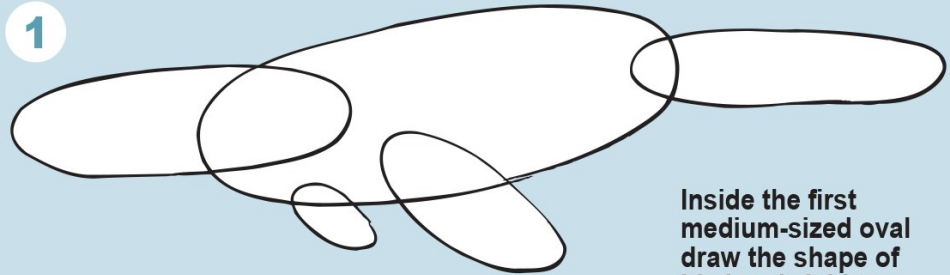
Rub out all the lines you don't want and use a fine pen or texta to ink him in. Now, just add some colour.

Earn two hours in your passport for 'Start with a shape'

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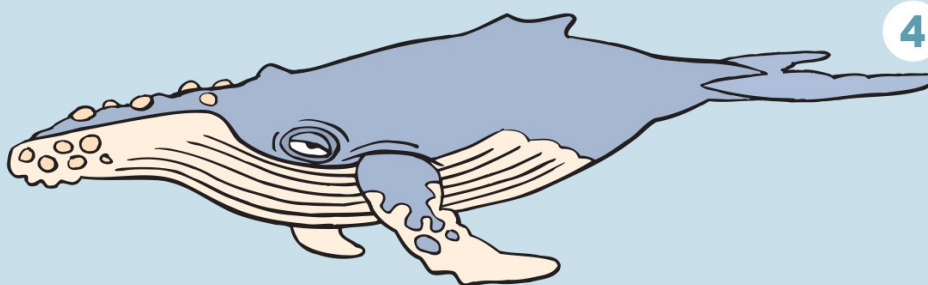
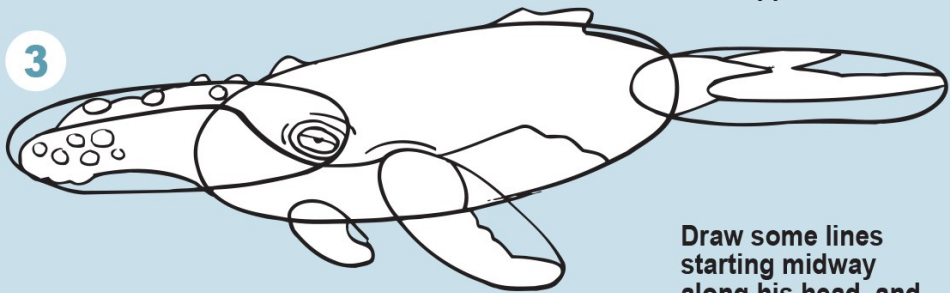
How to draw a HUMPBACK WHALE

Using a pencil draw a large oval for your humpback whale's body. Add two medium sized ovals where his mouth and tail are going to be and another two for his flippers as shown here. These will be your guides.



Inside the first medium-sized oval draw the shape of his head. Add two small ovals for his eye. Next, on top of the large oval, draw a bump for his blowhole and a double bump for his dorsal fin. Inside the second medium-sized oval and the two smaller ovals draw the shapes of his tail and flippers.

Finish his eye and add some circles for knobs to his head. Draw a line starting at the front of his head to the edge of the big oval. Curve it down under his eye and around his flipper. This will be his mouth and underside.



Draw some lines starting midway along his head, and under his flipper. These are called ventral grooves. Add some spots to the flipper, then rub out the guides. Use a pen or thin texta to ink him in and add some colour to finish him off!

Share your art with the CU team

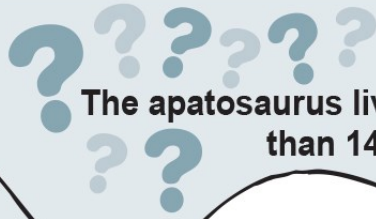
The Children's University Tasmania team would love to see the artwork you have produced for this challenge.

Please email scanned copies of your cartoons and other drawings to CU.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

We are considering ways we might display the work of our members at this year's Children's University Tasmania graduation ceremonies.

Earn two hours in your passport for 'Start with a shape'

How to draw an APATOSAURUS



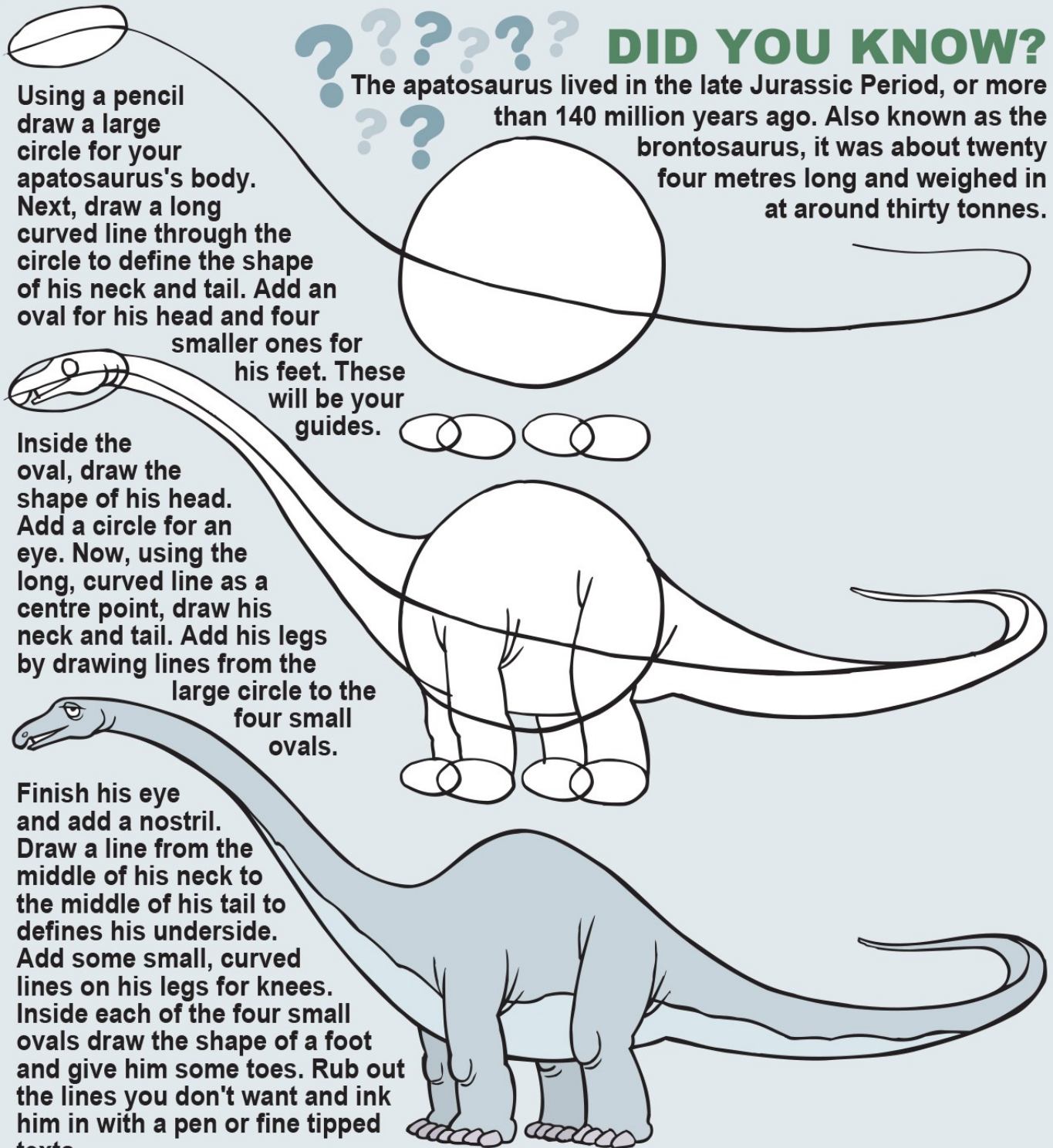
DID YOU KNOW?

The apatosaurus lived in the late Jurassic Period, or more than 140 million years ago. Also known as the brontosaurus, it was about twenty four metres long and weighed in at around thirty tonnes.

Using a pencil draw a large circle for your apatosaurus's body. Next, draw a long curved line through the circle to define the shape of his neck and tail. Add an oval for his head and four smaller ones for his feet. These will be your guides.

Inside the oval, draw the shape of his head. Add a circle for an eye. Now, using the long, curved line as a centre point, draw his neck and tail. Add his legs by drawing lines from the large circle to the four small ovals.

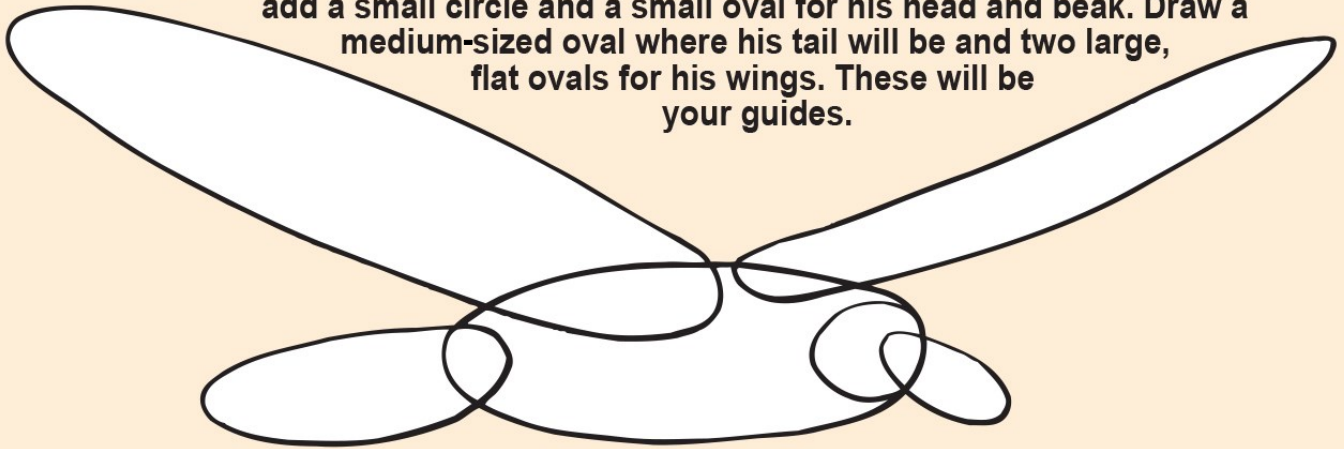
Finish his eye and add a nostril. Draw a line from the middle of his neck to the middle of his tail to defines his underside. Add some small, curved lines on his legs for knees. Inside each of the four small ovals draw the shape of a foot and give him some toes. Rub out the lines you don't want and ink him in with a pen or fine tipped texta.



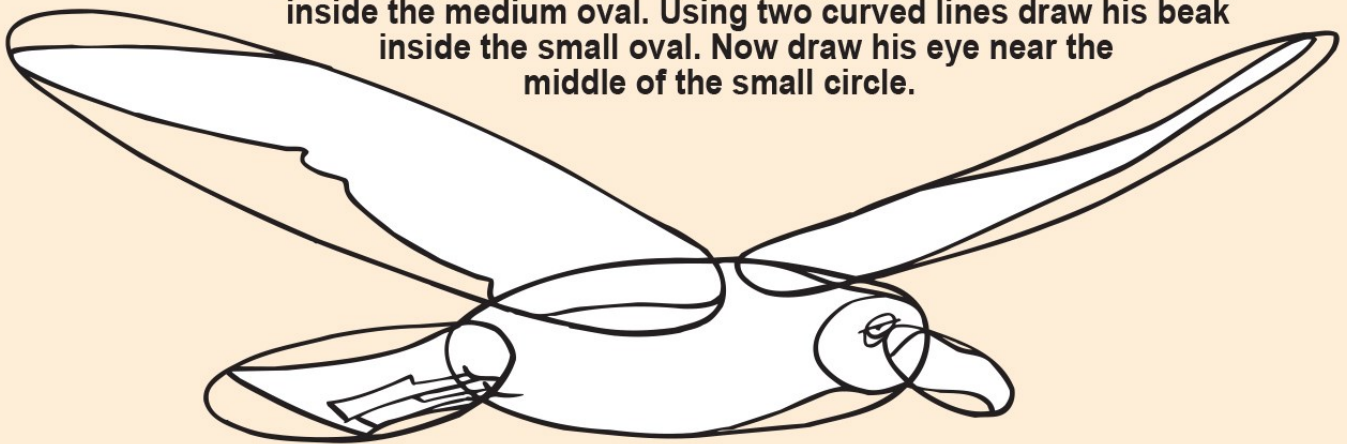
Earn two hours in your passport for `Start with a shape`

How to draw a **WANDERING ALBATROSS**

Using a pencil draw a big oval for your albatross's body. On the right of this oval add a small circle and a small oval for his head and beak. Draw a medium-sized oval where his tail will be and two large, flat ovals for his wings. These will be your guides.



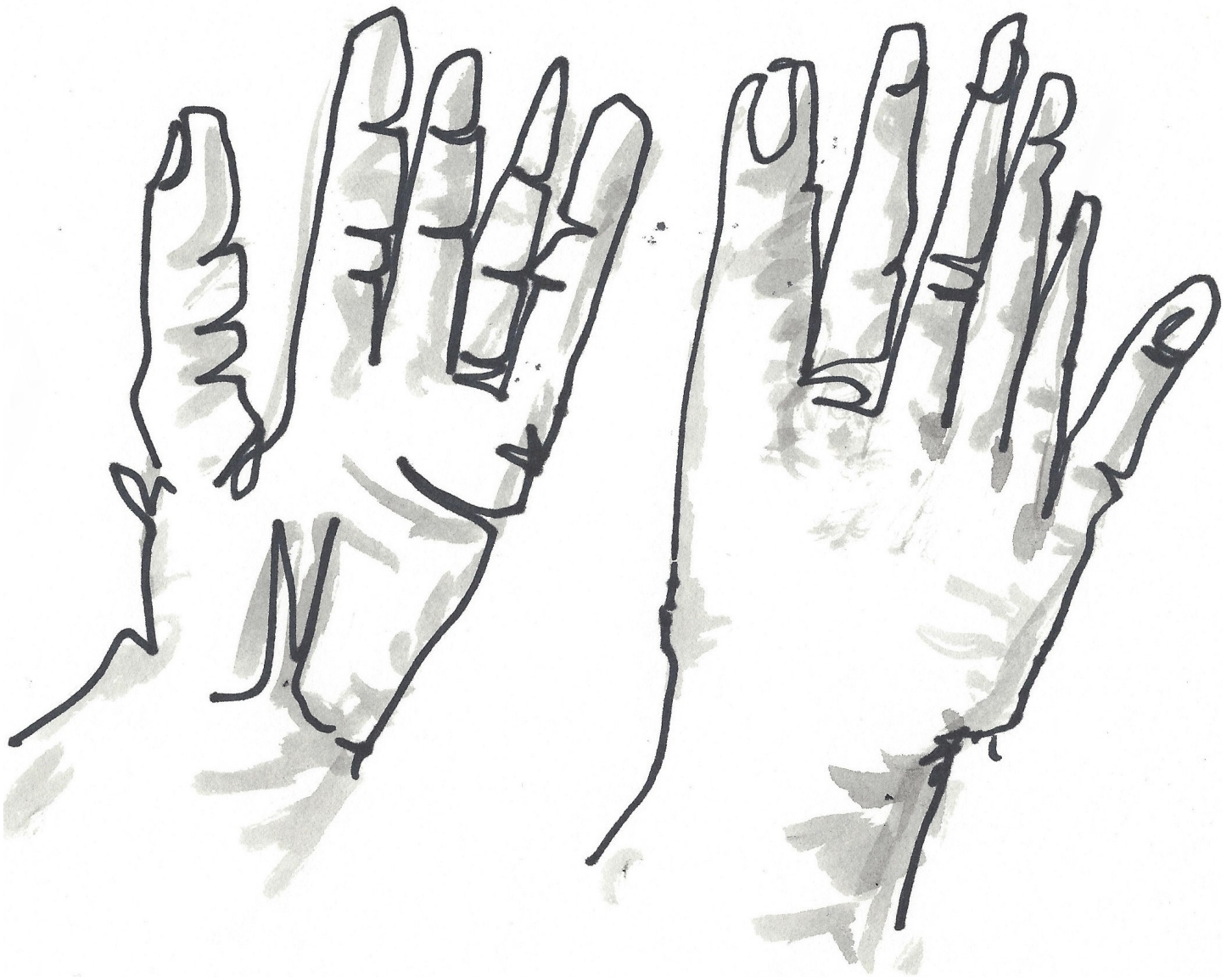
Inside the large, flat ovals draw the shapes of wings. Add his legs, feet and tail inside the medium oval. Using two curved lines draw his beak inside the small oval. Now draw his eye near the middle of the small circle.



Finish his wings and tail by adding some lines for feathers. Draw a small circle on his beak, then rub out all the lines you don't want and ink him in with a pen or fine tipped texta. To finish, just add some colour.



Blind contour line drawing



Another great way to improve your drawing is by using a technique called a 'blind, continuous, contour line drawing'.

All you need is a marker or a pencil and some paper.

The rules for blind, continuous, contour line drawing are simple:

- You only look at what you are drawing. You don't look at your paper until you are finished.

- You have to use one continuous line, so once you start drawing you can not lift your pencil or marker until you have finished.

Blind contour drawing really helps you to look more at what you are drawing, than at your paper.

It is a great exercise for your brain to build observation skills.

Your challenge is to create two blind

contour drawings - one of each side of your non-dominant hand.

If you are right-handed you will obviously need to draw your left hand with as much detail as possible.

Don't worry if your drawings look a little wonky, or not much like your hand at all, it really doesn't matter.

Now try drawing three other objects. You can earn up to **one hour** in your passport for this activity.

Earn one hour in your passport for 'Blind contour drawing'

Paint or draw a self-portrait

HAVE you ever drawn or painted a picture of someone?

If so, you have created a portrait.

Portraits are paintings, sculptures, photographs or another type of art which represent a person.

They usually focus on a person's face and reveal not just their appearance, but aspects of their personality, character and even their mood.

Perhaps the person appears to be proud, or happy, or thoughtful, or annoyed, or sad.

The most common portrait in modern times is a photograph.

There may be framed portrait photos of you or other members of your family on display in your house, or perhaps group portraits of more than one person.

But if you have visited an art gallery or museum, or a stately home like Government House in Hobart, you will have seen painted portraits and other forms of portrait art.

The materials an artist uses to create a work of art are called 'medium' and the plural of medium is 'media'.

As well as different media, artists use different styles.

Artworks might be realistic or abstract, such as the picture, above right.

Abstract artists use shapes, lines and colours to portray emotions and thoughts and not just what the eyes see.

So an abstract portrait might not be a realistic portrayal of a person's appearance, but it may reveal many important things about them.

This is especially the case if the artwork is a self-portrait, a portrait an



artist produces of themselves.

Your challenge is to draw or paint a self-portrait.

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) ran a fantastic online school holiday activity about portraits, and the video is still available here: www.facebook.com/118688216788/videos/852952878518341/

Perhaps you might like to try producing an abstract work. But

whichever approach you take, be creative and have fun.

Self-portraits are a great way to explore your thoughts and ideas, skills which will help with the main activity of the cartoon challenge. You can earn up to **two hours** in your passport for this activity.

As with all activities in this series don't be too hard on yourself - just have fun.

Earn two hours in your passport for 'Creating a self-portrait'

Create and draw a caricature

BACK in April 2020 the Peter Underwood Centre decided that its publication, *The Wonder Weekly*, needed a mascot to promote its fun learning activities.

And what better choice could there be than a red handfish?

The Underwood Centre had recently taken responsibility for a real, live red handfish of its own through the Handfish Conservation Project.

Red handfish are one of the rarest fish on the planet.

They are critically endangered and currently known to exist in just two locations in Tasmania — on two small patches of rocky reef near Hobart.

Researchers, including those at the University's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), are working hard to prevent the species' extinction.

Professor Finn was drawn for us by award-winning Tasmanian cartoonist John "Polly" Farmer, who did a fantastic job capturing one of the most unusual lifeforms in the marine world in the form of a caricature.

A caricature is a drawing which exaggerates the way the subject looks to create a humorous effect.

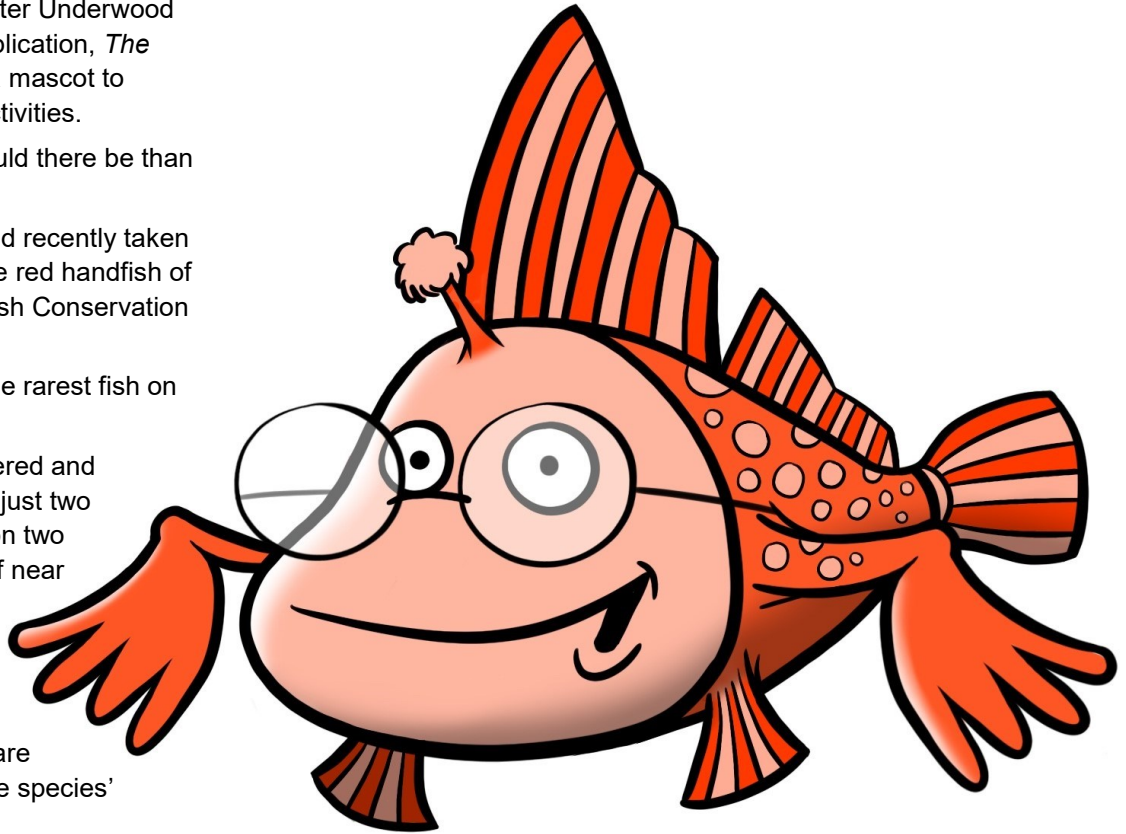
If you compare John's creation to the image of a real red handfish below, you can see the techniques he has used to give the Professor a human look or quality.

This is a common approach with cartoon and comic book caricatures of animals.

Your challenge is to create a caricature of another animal on Tasmania's threatened species list, which can be found online.

A wedge-tailed eagle is one example.

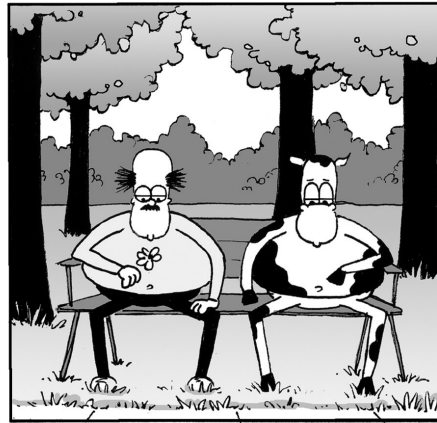
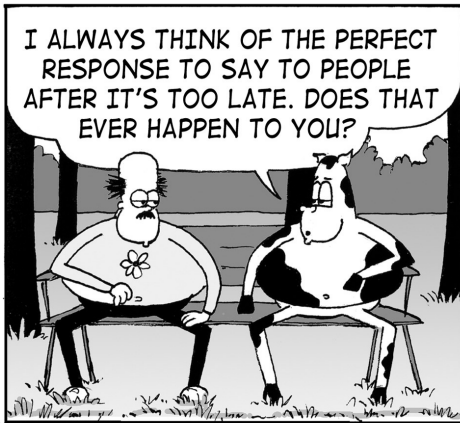
Whatever you decide to draw, you can earn up to two hours in your passport for this activity.



List of threatened species: nre.tas.gov.au/conservation/threatened-species-and-communities/lists-of-threatened-species/threatened-species-vertebrates

Earn two hours in your passport for 'Create a caricature'

Turn your hand to a cartoon



It is fun to create cartoons of your own.

A cartoon is a drawing, or a series of drawings, often intended to make us laugh.

The characters are drawn in a non-realistic or semi-realistic style, and often certain characteristics are exaggerated.

The images are usually combined with text, which can appear in speech bubbles or captions.

Cartoons are generally divided into two types, gag cartoons, which include political cartoons and comic strips.

Comic strips, such as the one pictured above, appear in newspapers and magazines.

No doubt some of you read comic books, which are a series of cartoons in a magazine format.

Political cartoons are published in a newspaper alongside the editorial.

These cartoons are a visual commentary of the major political events of the day.

Political cartoons are also generally (but not always) intended to be humorous for readers, but can be quite serious, and even critical as well.

Create a cartoon, or a comic strip if you like, to earn up to **three hours** in your passport.

Choose any theme that is of interest to you.



① → ②

Write the text first

Then draw the bubble.

Leave space between the words and bubble.

Roughly even space

text in rough diamond

Earn up to three hours in your passport for 'Cartooning'