

Pose Like a Mill Owner



How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

The mill owners of the Derwent Valley were very important people. They employed the locals and even housed and schooled them too. In order to show how important they were, they had their portraits painted by the renowned artist of the day, Joseph Wright of Derby.

You will need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Paints
- Coloured Pencils



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2



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¹ Sir Richard Arkwright, Derwent Valley Mills Available online: <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-history/derwent-valley-mills-key-figures/key-figures-richard-arkwright-1732-92/> Date accessed 15 July 2020.

² Richard Arkwright Junior and Family, Derwent Valley Mills, Available online: <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/?s=richard+arkwright+junior&x=0&y=0> Date accessed 15 July 2020.

³ William Strutt, Derwent Valley Mills, Available online: <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-history/derwent-valley-mills-key-figures/key-figures-william-strutt-1756-1830/> Date accessed: 15 July 2020.

⁴ Jedediah Strutt, Derwent Valley Mills, Available online: <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-history/derwent-valley-mills-key-figures/key-figures-jedediah-strutt-1726-97/> Date accessed: 15 July 2020.

How to have a go:

Step 1:

Before we start let us have a look at how to pose like a mill owner!

Here is Sir Richard Arkwright 1732-92. He ran Cromford Mill and invented the factory system and became very rich. As you can see, he is very confidently looking to one side with his arm on his hip. He looks like someone who has made it!



Richard Arkwright Junior 1755-1843, son of Sir Richard Arkwright helped run his father's cotton mills and had interests in banking and land ownership. His pose is confident, like his father's, but he is with his family and all are wearing very grand clothes.



Next, we have Jedediah Strutt 1726-97, who invented the Derby Rib Machine and became very wealthy. His pose makes him look thoughtful as he leans onto his hand next to a pile of books.



William Strutt 1756-1830 son of Jedediah Strutt became well known for his work on fireproof buildings. He rebuilt the Belper North Mill in 1804. Like his father, he sits with important papers and a thoughtful pose as though he was hard at work.

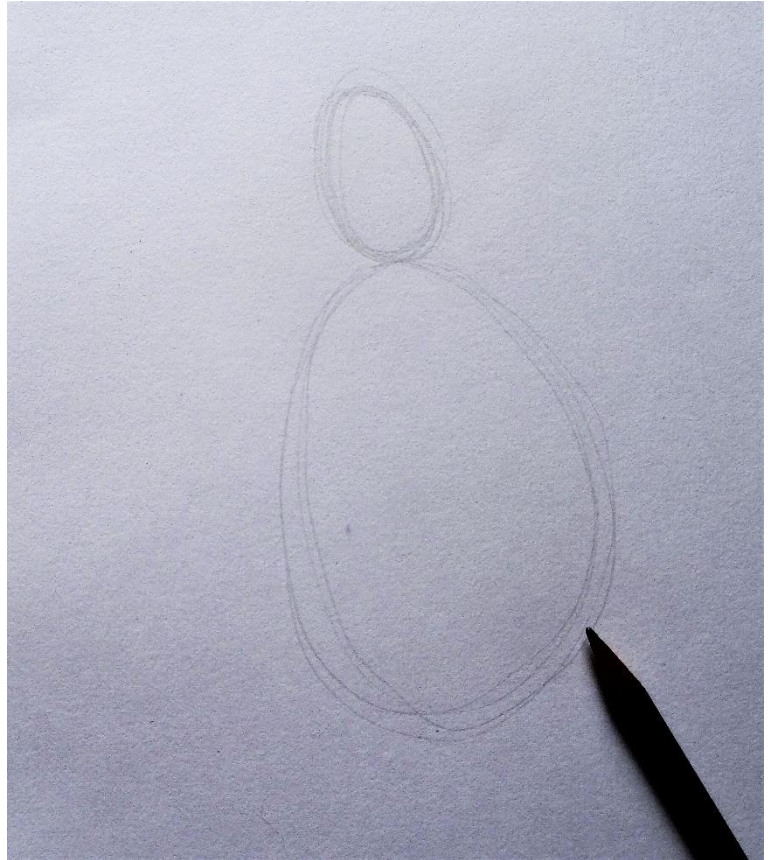


Get someone in your family to pose like a mill owner or look into a mirror at yourself. Let us start to create!

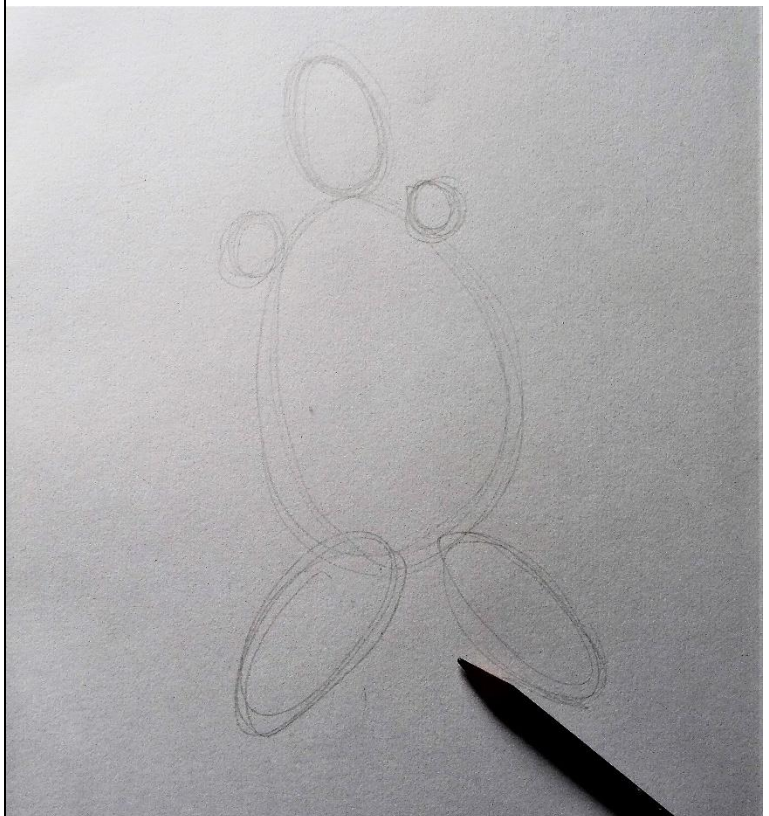
Step2:

To draw a figure, whether its yourself or a family member, it's easier to start by drawing lots of oval and circle shapes!

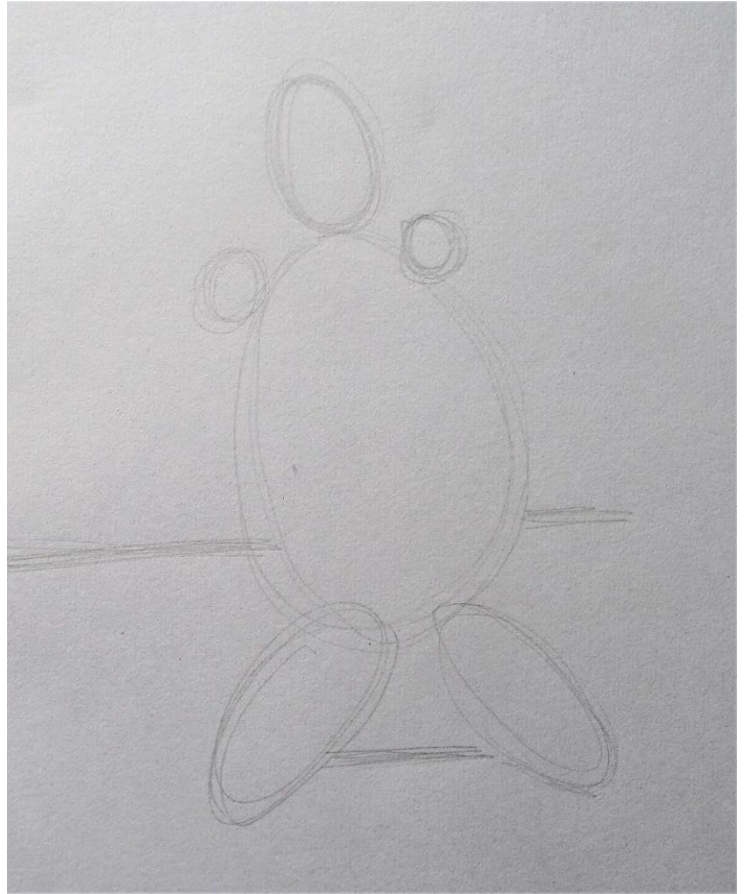
Using a pencil start with a small oval head, then an oval body.



Add some circle shoulders and oval thighs!

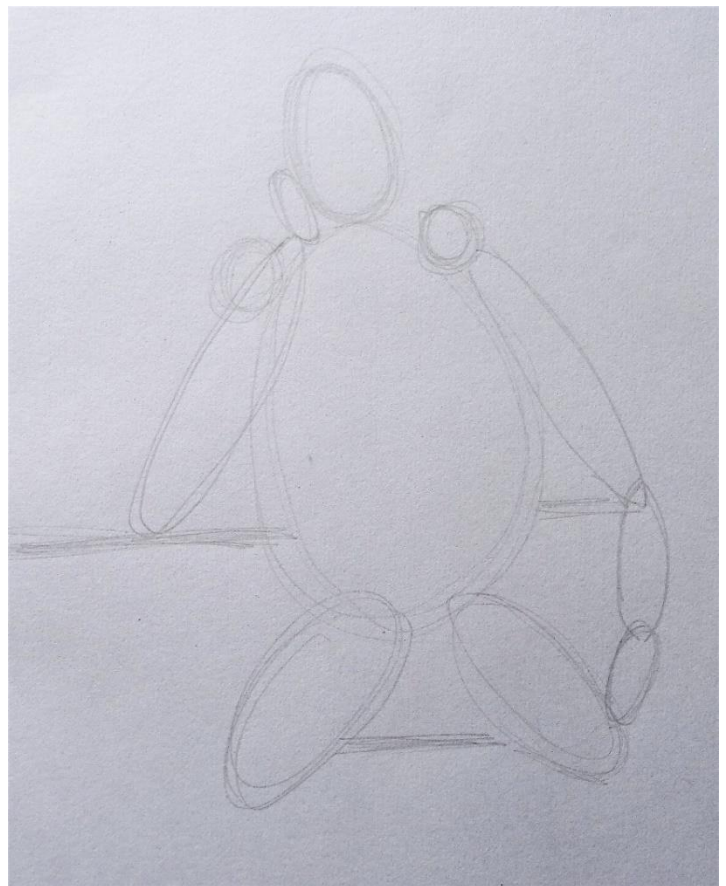


Now draw in a couple of lines for the tabletop and seat.



Now back to long oval shapes for the arms and little oval shapes for the hands.

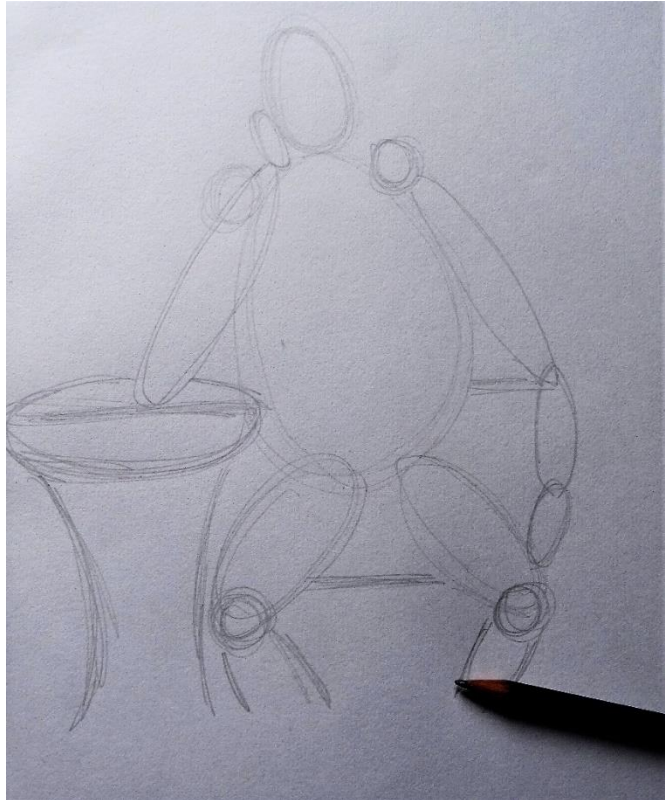
Notice we have now got a rough outline of a human shape.



Step 3:

Next we can add in the furniture detail. Most of the mill owners were leaning on to a table. Yours might look different so draw it as you see it.

Notice that the knees have been added by drawing more circles and two lines below make the legs.



Next using your pencil, you can draw around the oval and circle shapes and join them together to make them look more human. Here you can see clothes have started to be added.



Carry on drawing in the clothes and maybe add an object like your favourite book or something else. Here an eraser has been used to remove the oval and circles just leaving the outline of the figure.



Step 4:

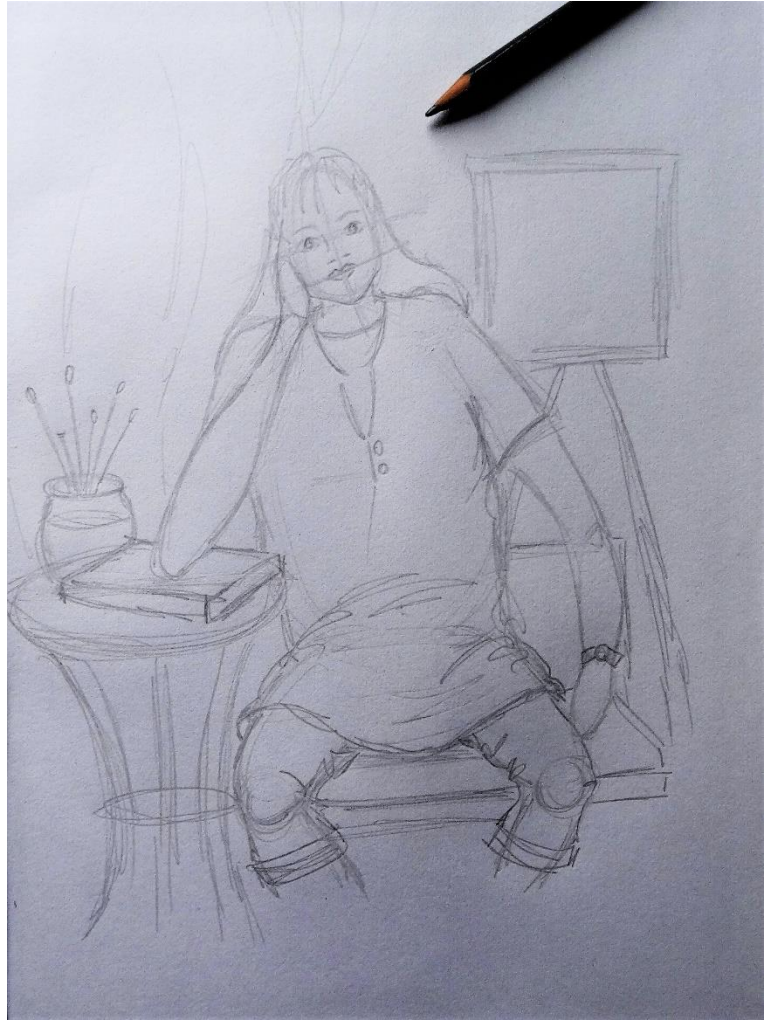
The face is important so here you can see there have been some guidelines drawn in. One guideline is down the centre from top to bottom, the other is in the centre from side to side. This line is for the eyes. The final guideline is halfway between the chin and the eyeline. This is for the mouth. The nose goes in between these.

Notice the hair has been drawn in too.



Step 5:

Carry on drawing in all the details you want here. This painting is of an artist so there is an easel and some paintbrushes, and her clothes include an apron. Use your own favourite things and add them into your painting now.



Use the eraser to get rid of any guidelines and neaten up your drawing. Once you are happy with your drawing you are ready to paint!



Step 6:

Using paints and some water in a cup, mix up a skin tone to match using a mixture of brown, white and red. Test it out on a spare piece of paper first to see what it looks like and when you are happy start adding it to all the areas of the painting that are skin.



Now paint in the clothes.



Paint in the furniture.



Paint in the objects.

(Notice that the direction of the paint on the clothes is in the direction the clothes would hang. Always try and put the paint on the paper in the direction something is made or would hang to make it look more real.)

Let the painting dry.



Step 7:

Next paint in the background being careful not to paint over your figure. Here there has been a curtain added just like the mill owners' paintings maybe you could add in your own curtains with their patterns.

Let the painting dry.



Step 8:

When your painting is dry you can now use coloured pencils to add in details. Here the details added are the hair, eyes, and mouth.



The clothes have been neatened up. Spots have been put on the jar and the furniture has been tidied up too.



If you use watercolour pencils, you can add a wash of clean water to blend in the drawn marks. Practice with the pencils first on a scrap bit of paper and see what results you get.



Step 9:

Look at your painting and add lots of details using either paint or coloured pencils until you are happy with the result.

This painting was based on the Jedediah Strutt portrait - you can see that it has the same pose. You can try out different types of poses and add in many different objects to tell your story when you do your paintings.

You could paint lots of portraits of friends and family and send them to them as presents.



Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we'd love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12th October 2020.

Post us your work – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you'd like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

Postal address:

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Send us a photo – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

Social Media – If you use social media use #DVMWHSCreativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:



Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS



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Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!