How to Draw a Cityscape

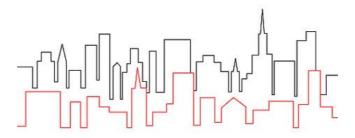Drawing a whole cityscape sounds difficult, right? It's actually very simple--follow these four steps to make a realistic cityscape of your own.

Steps

1   **Draw a line forming the outline of the buildings.**   Only use straight lines going up and down, making buildings of many different sizes. Really try to have variety amongst your buildings, or else your cityscape will be pretty uninteresting.

2   **Add a second row of buildings drawn in front of the first.**   This will add depth and perspective to your cityscape; just make sure you keep everything in proportion and if you mess up, erase very carefully so as to not smudge any part of the other sketched row.

3 **Color the back row of buildings in a lighter shade of grey than the second, and paint the sky as though it were dawn.** If you add more rows of buildings, remember that the farther they are into the distance, the brighter the shade of grey they need to be.

4 **Add details like random lights turned on in the buildings.** Use rectangles and squares to mimic the windows. Put many together in groups for larger buildings to make them look like apartments, and for warehouses and similar structures don't add any light at all.

⑦ Community Q&A

Question

How can I draw a realistic cityscape?

Community Answer

Adding details will make your cityscape more realistic. Focus on adding textures and working with light and shadows to really make it come alive.

Helpful 50   Not Helpful 25

Question

How can I emphasize a single building?

Community Answer

Try to make the outside lines on the building thicker, or the colors brighter.

Helpful 26   Not Helpful 22

Question

Do I have to use shading to make it realistic?

RainbowSprinklesAJ
Community Answer

No. You can add value if you like. You can make it look whatever way you want. It's your art, so it's your choice.

Helpful 18   Not Helpful 28

⚡ Tips

- Draw lightly in pencil so that you can easily rub out mistakes.

- Make sure to add a sun or clouds for a more realistic setting.

- Adding just a simple, circular or a clump of shining stars can make your drawing look more realistic!

- Draw in different shades for the buildings.

- Use a ruler for straight lines.

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257 votes - 75%

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