



Confused about which type of charcoal to purchase and use in a project? The drawing to the left uses three types of charcoal drawing tools:

1. Willow charcoal
2. Compressed charcoal
3. Charcoal pencil

You can refer to the numbers in the picture to see where each was used.

***What's the difference?***

**Willow charcoal** is soft and light. It's easy to erase and great for sketching. It's also great for rendering light areas and blends really well.

**Compressed charcoal** is hard and dark. It's not good for sketching because it doesn't erase well. Use it for rendering very dark areas.

**Charcoal pencils** are pencils made with compressed charcoal. Therefore, they do not erase easily. They are great for fine details and for adding texture.

*Drawing by David Bauch, age 12*



Want to try this drawing? You will need the following supplies

- Willow charcoal
- Compressed charcoal
- Charcoal pencil
- Kneaded eraser
- White charcoal paper
- Blending stump (optional)

## Directions:

1. Lightly sketch the big shapes of the bird onto the white charcoal paper using the willow charcoal. Erase as needed with the kneaded eraser.
2. Fill in light shadows with the willow charcoal and blend lightly with your finger or blending stump.
3. Fill in the dark areas with the compressed charcoal and blend as needed.
4. Use the charcoal pencil to add details to the face and top feathers.

