

UNDERWATER LANDSCAPE STILL LIFE

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How Artists Have Kept Still Life Painting Alive Over Thousands of Years

Still Life Definition

A still life (also known by its French title, *nature morte*) painting is a piece that features an arrangement of inanimate objects as its subject.

The term “still life” is derived from the Dutch word *stilleven*, which gained prominence during the 16th century. While it was during this time that the still life gained recognition as a genre, its roots date back to ancient times.

Still-life is a work of art depicting inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace objects which may be either be natural or man-made.

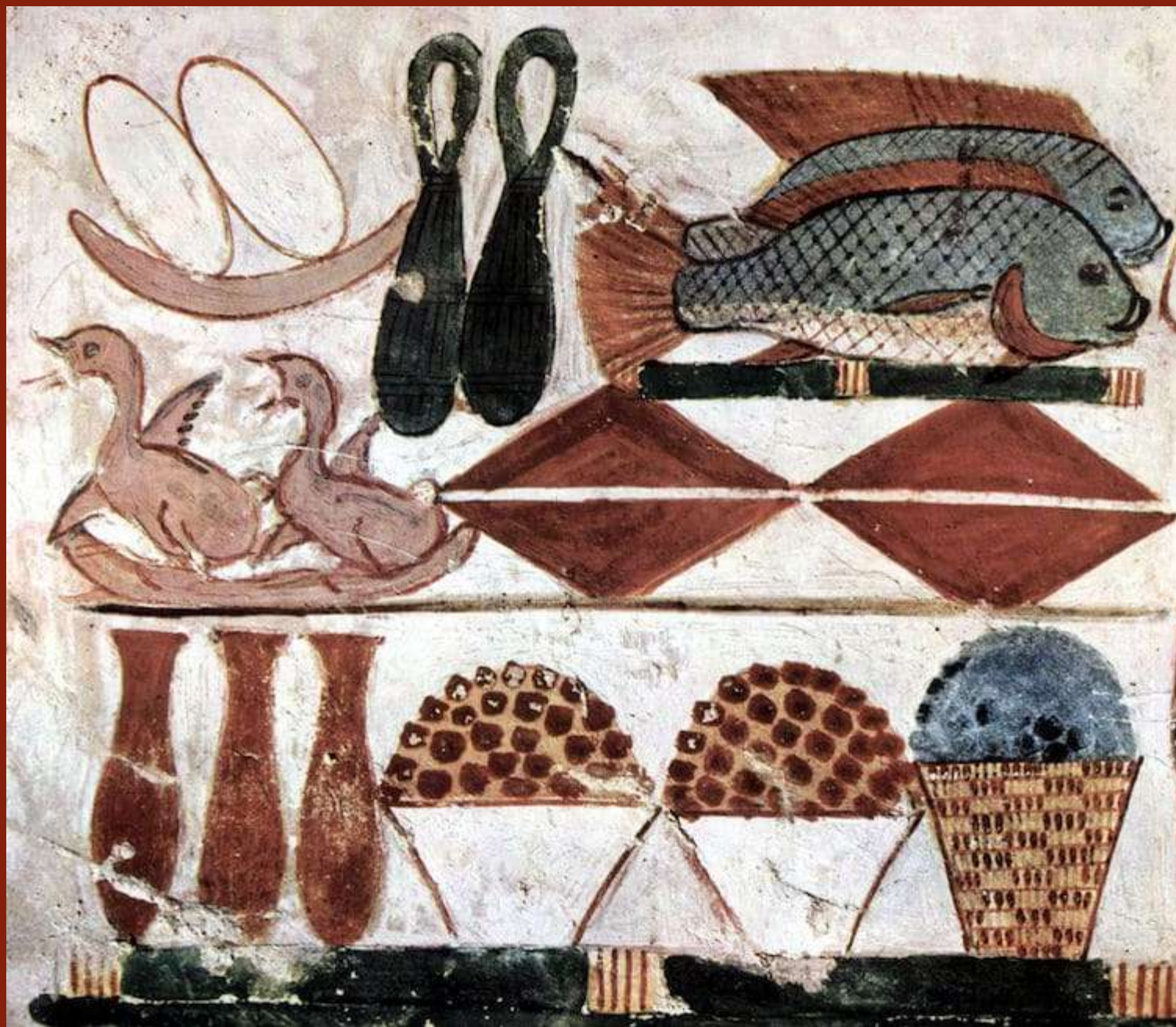
- Natural: food, plants and natural substances like rocks**
- Man-made: drinking glasses, bottles, pipes, hotdogs and so on**

History: ANCIENT ART

The earliest known still life paintings were created by the Egyptians in the 15th century BCE.

Funeral paintings of food—including crops, fish, and meat—have been discovered in ancient burial sites.

The most famous ancient Egyptian still-life was discovered in the Tomb of Menna, a site whose walls were adorned with exceptionally detailed scenes of everyday life.



Ancient Greeks and Romans also created similar depictions of inanimate objects.

While they mostly reserved still life subject matter for mosaics, they also employed it for frescoes, like *Still Life with Glass Bowl of Fruit and Vases*, a 1st-century wall painting from Pompeii.



Dutch Golden Age artists took this interest in detailed floral art a step further with their *vanitas* paintings.

Vanitas paintings are a genre of painting whose Latin name translates to “remember that you have to die.”

These pieces often pair cut flowers with objects like human skulls, melting candles, and hard or displaced objects to represent the fleeting of time, nature, and of life.

However, *vanitas* paintings “often include other symbols such as musical instruments, wine, and books to remind us explicitly of the vanity of worldly pleasures and goods.”




In addition to the Post-Impressionists, Cubist master Pablo Picasso and Pop Art pioneer Roy Lichtenstein also favored everyday objects, from bowls of fruit to technological inventions.



- **Still life paintings often adorn the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs.**
- **It was believed that the food, stuffs and other items depicted there would, in the afterlife, become real and available for use by the deceased.**
- **Similar paintings, more simply decorative in intent, have also been found in the Roman frescoes unearthed at Pompeii and Herculaneum.**
- **Through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, still life in Western art was mainly used as an adjunct to Christian religious subjects**

Criteria for Underwater Landscape Still-Life

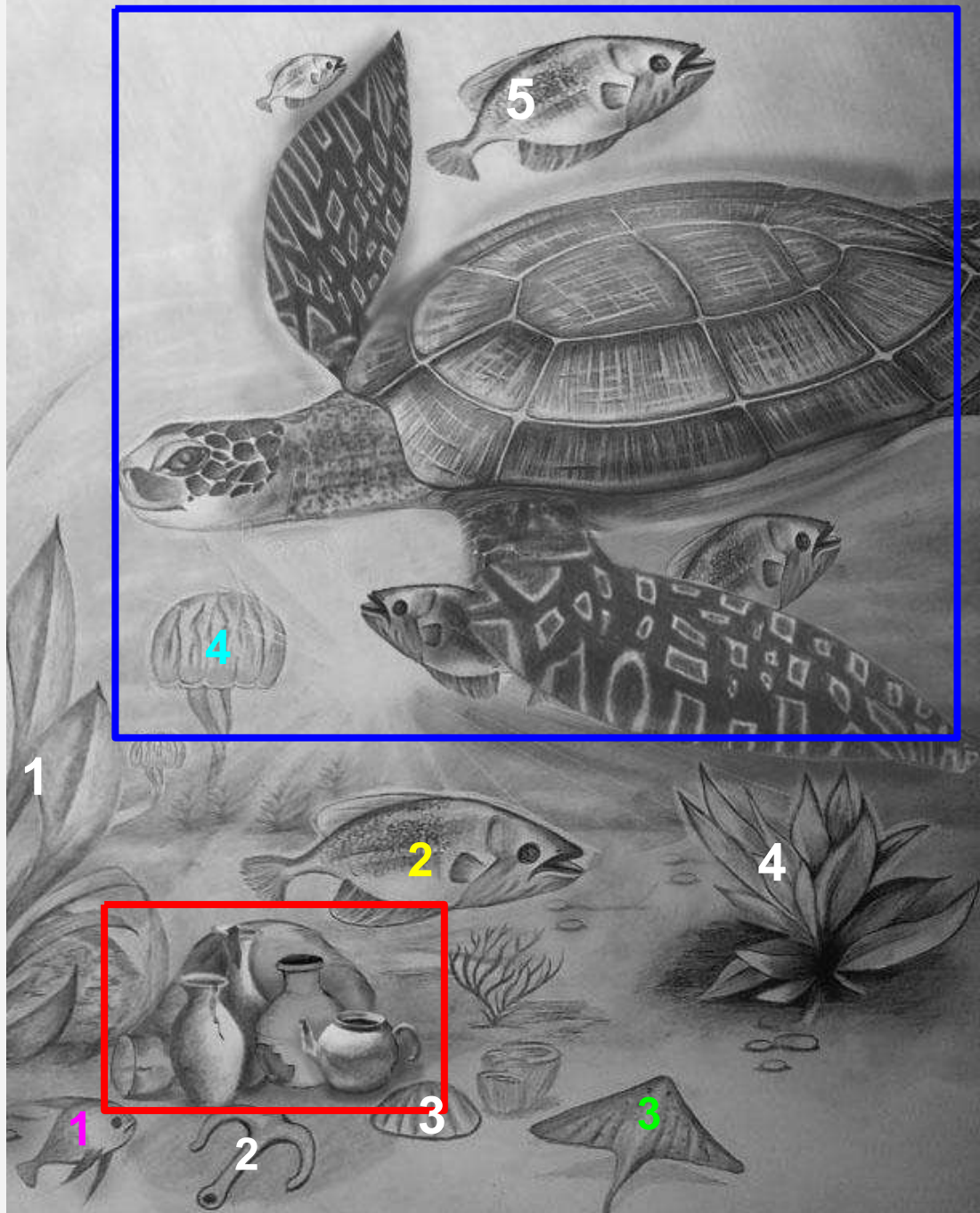
Sketch the drawing out slightly off-center on your paper

 Include at least **1** of the following: a shark, turtle, or whale. **The shark, turtle, or whale needs to be drawn and shaded similar to our previous assignments.*

 Include **5 to 8** still-life objects in your drawing

1, 2, 3, 4 Include at least **4** additional sea-life

1, 2, 3, 4 Include at least **5** additional details



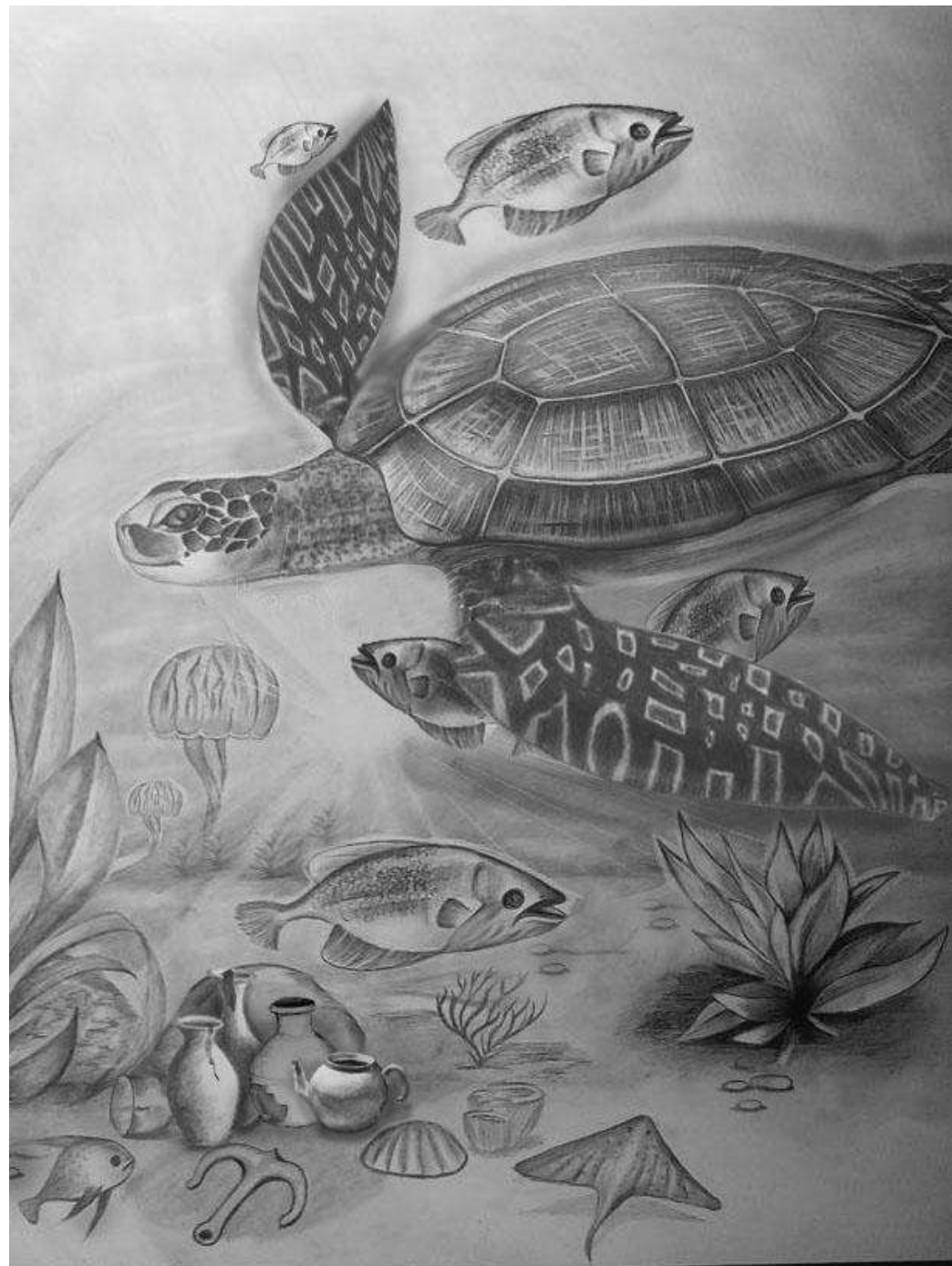
Choose an object as the focal point of your drawing.

Refine your sketch to make proportions and details accurate.

Start shading from your focal point and work your way outward.

Use a wide range of values from light to dark.

Think about balance, composition, space, form, and value



Include at least 1 of the following: a shark, turtle, or whale. **The shark, turtle, or whale needs to be drawn and shaded similar to our previous assignments.*

Include 5 to 8 still-life objects in your drawing

Include at least 4 additional sea-life

Include at least 5 additional details

Shade using a wide range of value from light to dark

Focus on Composition, Balance, Value, Space



Underwater Landscape



Still-Life Examples

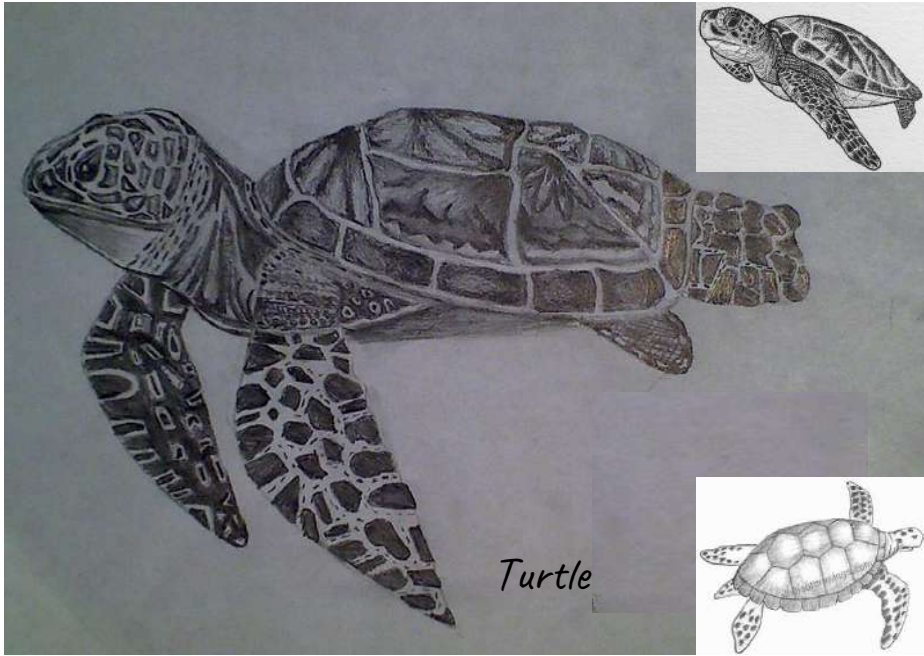




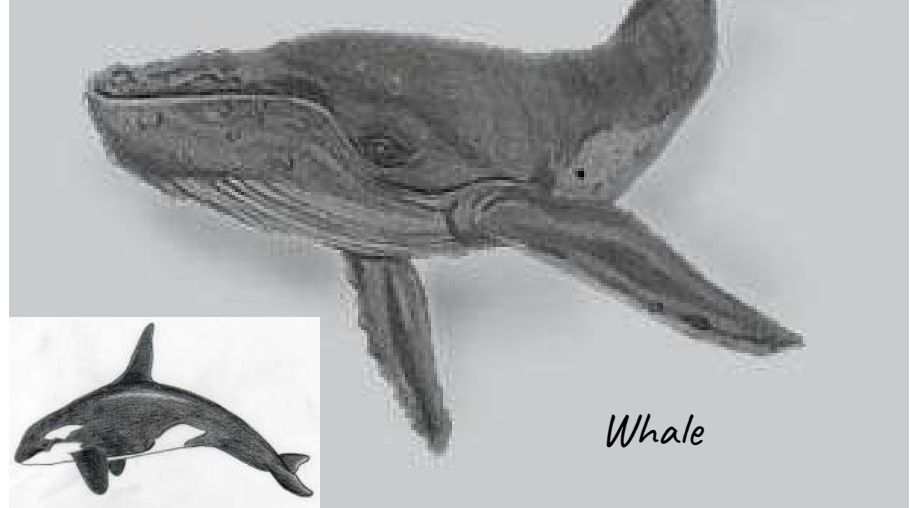
Video



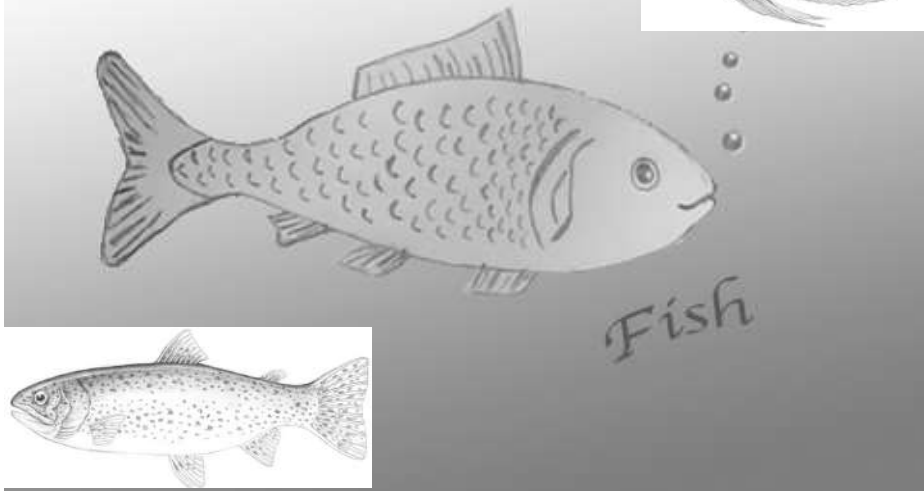
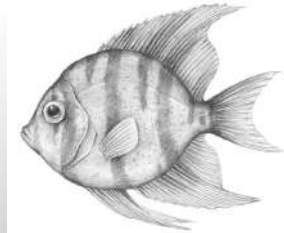
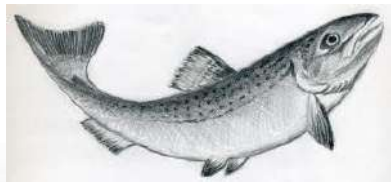
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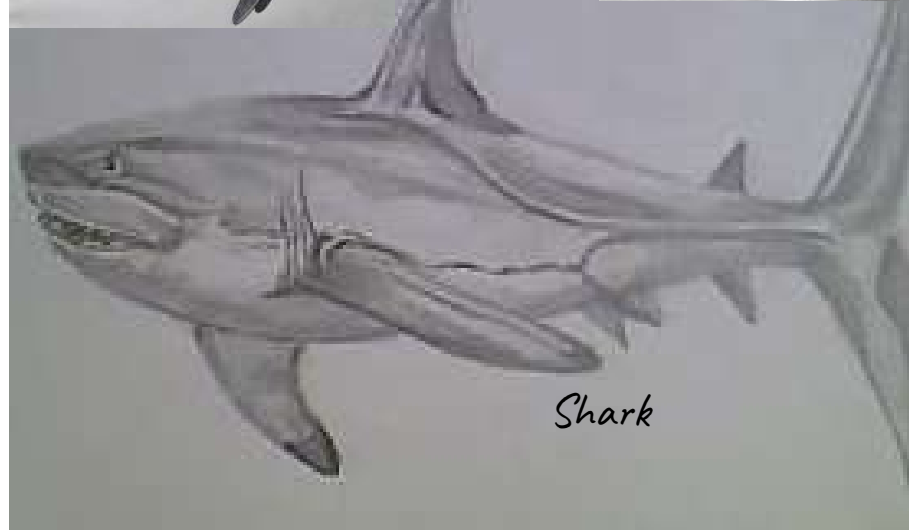
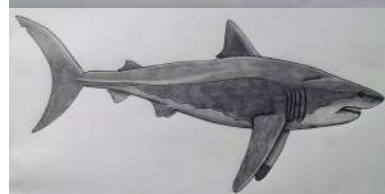
Turtle



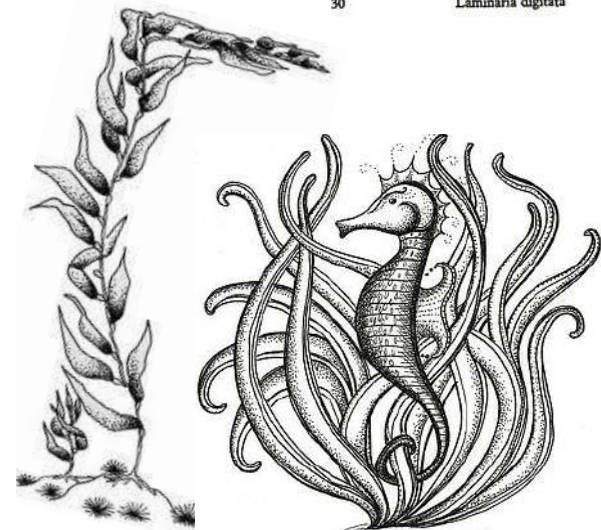
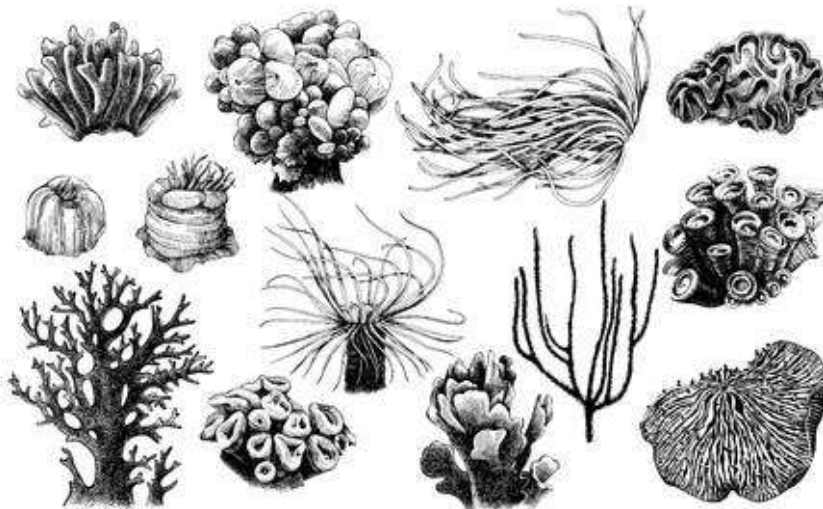
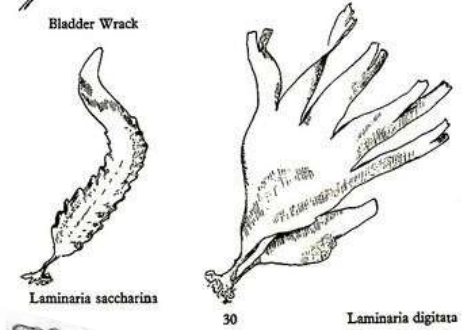
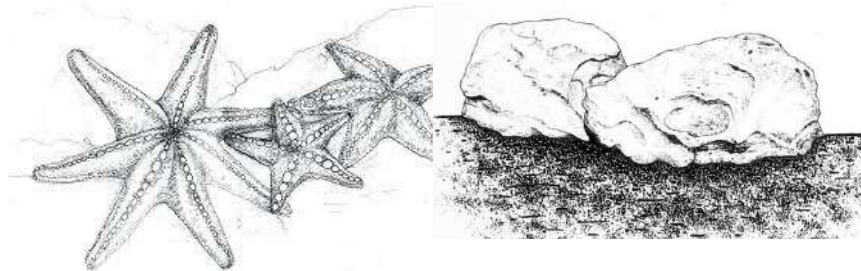
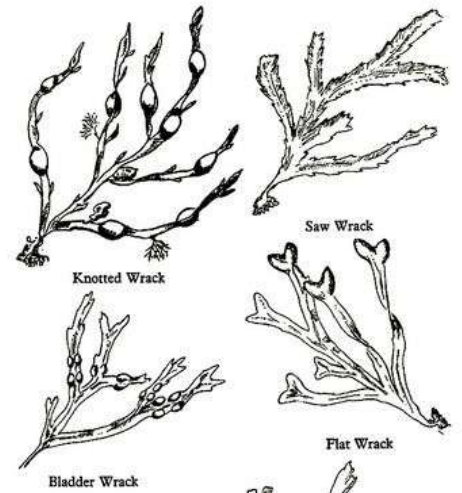
Whale



Fish



Shark





Video



Video



Video



Video