

Drawing Activity #4 Exploratory Works

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About the Department of Tropical Research

Naturalist William Beebe and the Department of Tropical Research scientists worked side-by-side with artists to illustrate ecosystems in their jungle laboratories and oceanographic workshops during the 1920s and 1930s. In a world with limited photography, art advanced our understanding of science. Artists used their pens and brushes to bring animals from the far reaches of the world—tropical rainforests and marine environments that were impossible to access—into the scientific limelight.

Activity

The Department of Tropical Research artists spent hours in the field studying their environment and documenting it with drawings.

Survey your own environment for signs of nature—both inside your home and outside your window. Carefully study, note, and draw the color, light, texture, shape, and patterns you see in plants, animals, and other natural forms, objects, and materials.

Related Publication

To learn more about William Beebe and the Department of Tropical Research visit drawingcenter.org to read the full publication *Drawing Papers 132: Exploratory Works*



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Drawings from the Department of Tropical Research Samples



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