DRAWING A FIELD SKETCH

In geography, field sketches record information when studying places outside the classroom. They highlight and annotate the key features of the place being observed.

When drawing field sketches, you do not reproduce every element of the landscape being observed. You highlight the main geographical features you can observe.

You will be assessed on your ability to communicate information rather than your artistic merit.

Drawing field sketches

The construction of field sketches involves the following steps:

1. Study the place being observed, and select the features to be sketched.

2. Using a soft pencil and a blank sheet of paper, students draw a frame the same shape as the scene being sketched.

3. Divide the image you are going to sketch into three parts:
   a. foreground
   b. middle distance
   c. background.

4. Sketch in the main features or lines of the scene you can observe. This may include the horizon and other prominent landform features.

5. Mark in other prominent features or lines (such as roads, railway lines and rivers). These provide reference points for the addition of more detailed features.

6. Add any other detail if appropriate. The details might include buildings, trees and fences.

7. Shading and colour can be used to highlight the key features of the field sketch. Avoid making the sketch too cluttered.

8. Label the main features shown in the sketch.

9. Give the field sketch a heading and annotate the work with the date of observation.

10. Border your sketch with a black felt-tipped pen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l4flc1RAok