



This is a picture of the mark making tool/pen I made and dipped in the ink and drew with.

I did a drawing of a bee in honor of the bees that made the honey used to make the ink in this project.

**Lesson#1:** Title: Honey-Carbon Ink making

**Artist:** Xander Weaver Scull

**Materials/Prep:** *\*\*A parent should be present if they are not comfortable with their child using an exposed flame without their supervision:*

- Candle (tea candle works great, anything with exposed and accessible flame).
- A way to light the candle
- A couple spoons you don't mind getting messy (must be metal)
- Something to hold the spoon with in case it gets hot (it will be held over the candle for several minutes)
- A couple coffee stirrers, popsicle sticks or chop sticks for mixing - regular old twigs work great too, just make sure they are clean (potentially strip bark off)
- Small glass or jar of water
- A plate to rest messy materials on
- Paper (anything will work, and thicker paper is better)
- Honey (only a small amount is needed- likely at most a drop or two)
- a paintbrush or quill, or nib'd pen. - something you don't mind getting messy. Even a q tip can work. You can also draw/paint with any "mark making tool" see my picture of the carved stick I used for my drawing.
- A timer or clock to keep track of time

**Introduction/Goals:** You will learn how to make simple homemade black/grey ink using materials that are not thought of as "art supplies" but are likely already in your kitchen

**Activity:** Making "honey-carbon ink" following the directions and demonstration in my tutorial on YouTube. Consider watching the video first then consider watching it again as you follow the process yourself. Possibly explore making more than one batch of ink: extending the time you hold your spoon over the candle to 5 minutes or even longer to see if your ink gets darker. Or try adding less honey if the first batch is too sticky, or less water to make the ink darker as well.

**Vocabulary:** Ink, binder, vehicle, pigment, carbon

**Closing:** A discussion to see how the process went, talk about what worked well and where there may have been challenges. Share drawings or mark making explorations you created with the ink.

**Successes:** Making ink that was usable and enjoyable to work with.

**Challenges:** Not getting burnt (however it is unlikely you will get burnt in this process if you follow directions). Possibly mixing in too much water or too much honey into the ink.

**CA State Standard(s):** 2.VA:Cr1.2, 4.VA:Cr2.1, 4.VA:Cr2.2

**Relevant Artist(s) and Distinguished People:** John Muir, Ane Carla Rovetta

**Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/4UgNIW-MdKc>