

Portraits of Mary

Queen of Scots

Learn about portraits, look at some Mary Queen of Scots examples and create your own.

What is a portrait?

A portrait is a likeness of someone either drawn, painted or sculpted.

Portraits were especially important before the time of photography. However, portraits aren't just created to accurately record what people looked like. Just like social media images today, they are also a way to show status, power, wealth, beauty and other qualities which the subject or creator of the portrait wants people to see.



Portraits can also be an important source of historical information. As well as giving us information about the person in the portrait, we can also see the style and influences of the artists and sculptors who create them and the style and fashions of the time they are created in.

Portraits of Mary Queen of Scots

Mary Queen of Scots is a very colourful character from Scottish History. She was Queen of Scotland from 1543 until 1567.

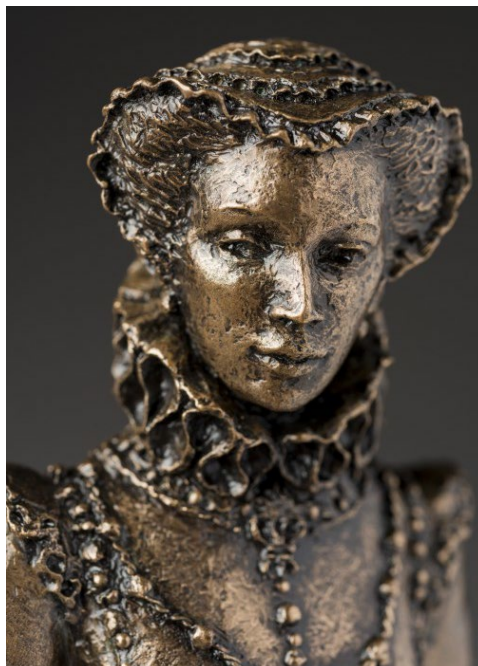
We don't know exactly what Mary looked like, but many portraits of her have been created.

Look at the portraits below. What details can you find out about her?

- Look out for **shapes, colours, textures and patterns**
- What do you think of her **clothes, jewellery and hairstyles**?
- Are there any **objects** in the portrait? If so, why might that be?
- Is Mary **happy, sad, stern, relaxed or formal**? Is she **young or older** in the portrait?
- What **similarities or differences** are there between the portraits?
- Which one is **your favourite** and why?

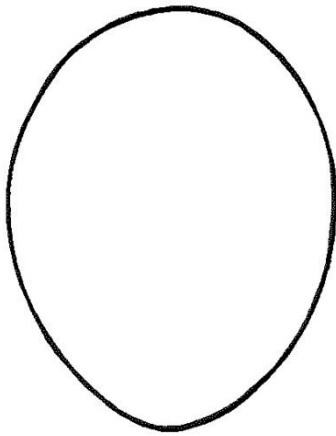


More portraits of Mary Queen of Scots

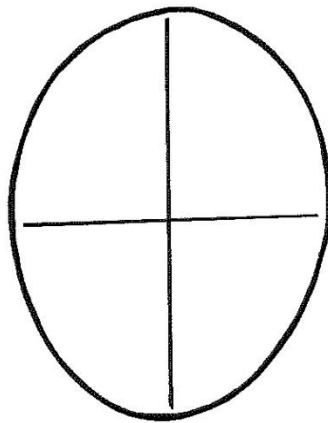


Now create your own portrait of Mary: draw and paint and then create a collage border. What do you think she looked like, and what do you want people to know about her?

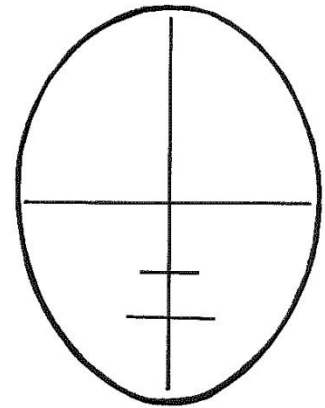
How to draw a portrait



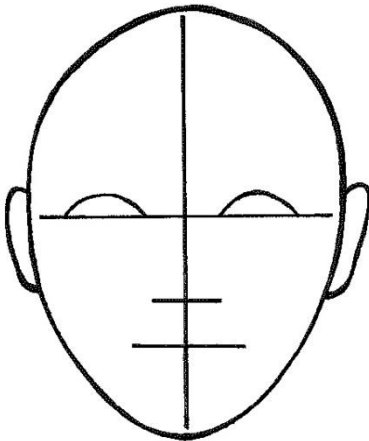
1. Draw the shape of the head. It almost has a shape like an upside-down egg.



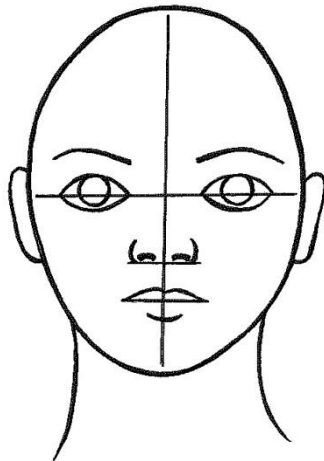
2. Draw a line through the middle of the face (top to bottom). This will help keep the features in line. Draw a line across the face (left to right). This will later be the line for the eyes. Draw these lines lightly as they will be rubbed out later.



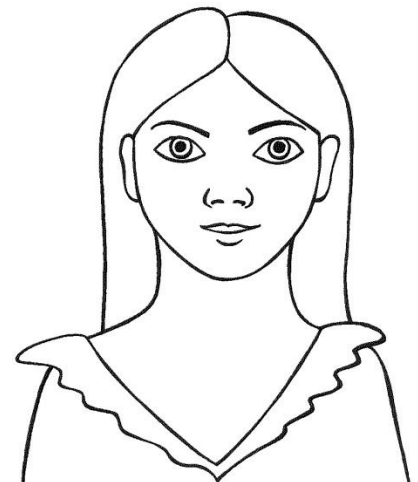
3. Draw a small line between the chin and the line for the eyes, almost in the middle. Underneath that line, draw a slightly longer line which will later be mouth. Draw these lines lightly as they will be rubbed out later.



4. Draw two curves on the line for the eyes. They should be far enough apart so that a third can fit in between. Then you can add the ears on the side of the head. They are positioned between the line for the nose and the top of the eyes.



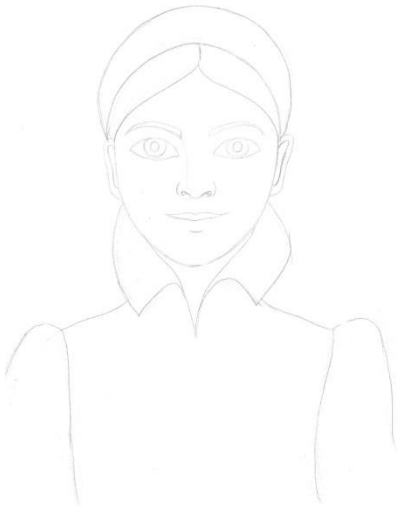
5. Draw another curve for the bottom of the eyes and add a pupil. Draw eyebrows over the eyes. Draw a nose and nostrils just above the line for the nose. Draw in the mouth, using the line for the mouth as the middle of the mouth. Also add two lines for the neck.



6. Finish drawing the eyes. Add hair and a body with clothes. Erase all extra lines.

Well done, you have completed your very own portrait drawing!

How to paint a portrait



1. Lightly sketch the face and clothes of the figure. You can use the *how to draw a portrait* instructions for guidance.



2. Fill in the background with a colour of your choice. Dark colours work better than lighter colours. You do not need to colour right to the edge.



3. Fill in the face using a skin colour.



4. Fill in some of the clothes and colour the hair and eyebrows. You can use any colours you like for this.



5. Fill in the rest of the clothes and the details of the face (eyes, nose and mouth).



6. Using crayons, draw over the lines you made in pencil again. Also add finer details such as eyelashes and rosy cheeks.

Well done, you have created your very own portrait painting!

How to create a frame/details using collage



1. Draw an oval shape around your figure. Use a light crayon.



2. Decorate the clothes of your figure by gluing various materials onto your painting. You do not need to decorate the area outside the oval.



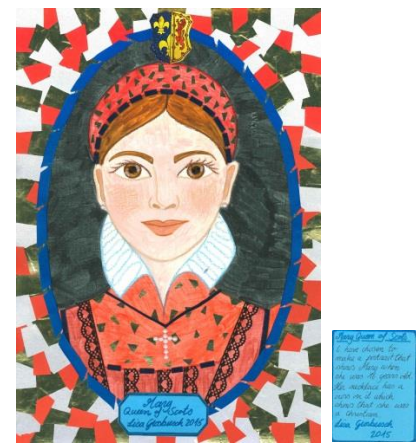
3. Cover the area outside the oval with pieces of coloured paper. Do not worry about going over the edge of your painting.



4. Trim the edges of your painting if necessary. Cover the crayon line with a material of your choice to create an oval.



5. Glue on a plaque and the coat of arms. Write the title of the painting, your name and date on the plaque.



6. On a bigger plaque, write some information about your painting. For a professional display, hang it next to your painting.

Well done, you have created your very own frame using collage!