



Sketching from life and memory

5 INTRODUCTION

A book without picture and a wall without painting seems like a bride without ornaments. Sketch is the basis of drawing and painting. Sketch serves to drawing and painting as the back-bone to the body; to keep the body straight well-shaped and attractive.

Man is a social animal. He adopts one or the other medium to express his thoughts and feelings to others, such as writing, speaking, dancing, singing, and painting. A student expresses his ecstasy and sorrow by drawing lines at random. Then he likes to make pictures and paintings. Sketching is the first step to realize one's feelings and thoughts. In this lesson the different aspects of sketching are highlighted as to how to make it easy to make the shape and form of a thing through sketch, which will be very useful for the students. On the basis of the sketches given in this lesson, by practicing he can develop his imagination, creativity and his skills.

5.1 OBJECTIVES

After studying and practicing this lesson, the learner should be able to:

- draw the different aspects of sketching;
- explain and make the shape and form of a thing through sketch.

5.2 DEFINITION OF SKETCHING

Sketching is a pre-stage of drawing where the artist draws with a free and unassisted hand, that is to say, with no reference marks to suggest the outlines limits, no grip to help proportion, no system of measurement as a crosscheck during the progress of the work.

See the sketches of famous artists on the following figures (Fig. 5.1, 5.2)

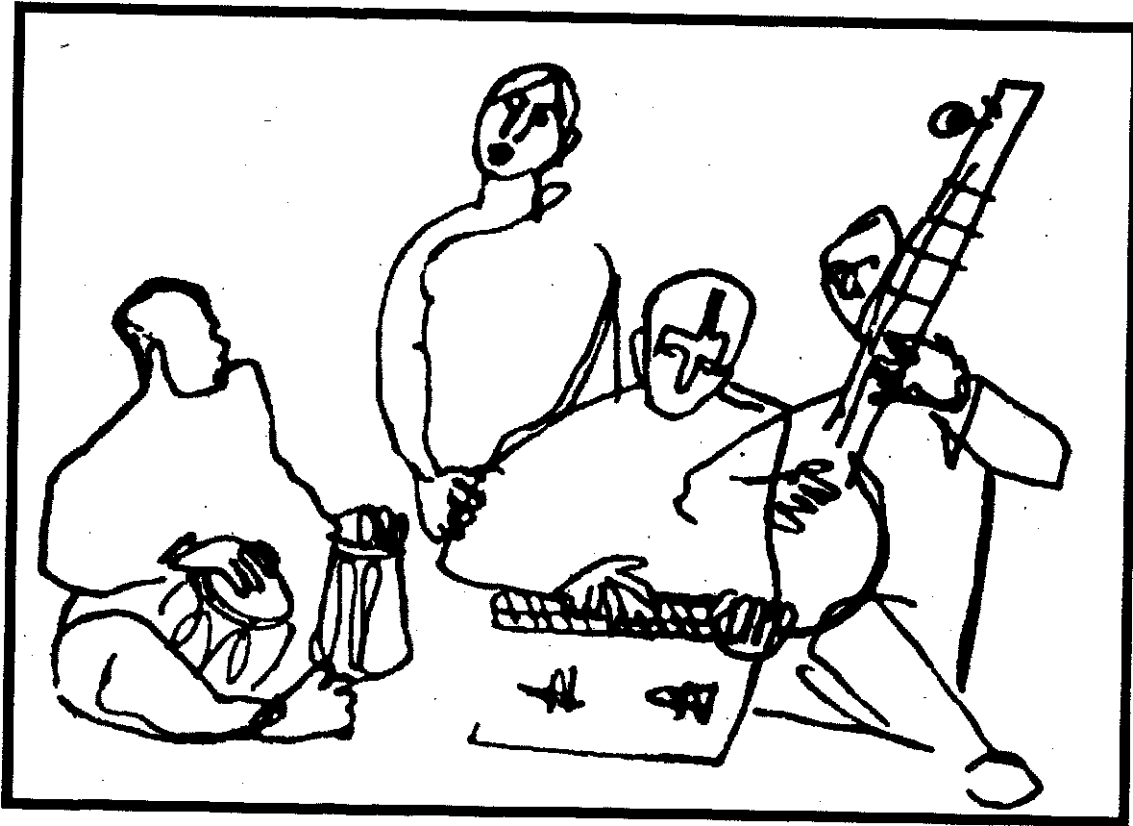


Fig. 5.1

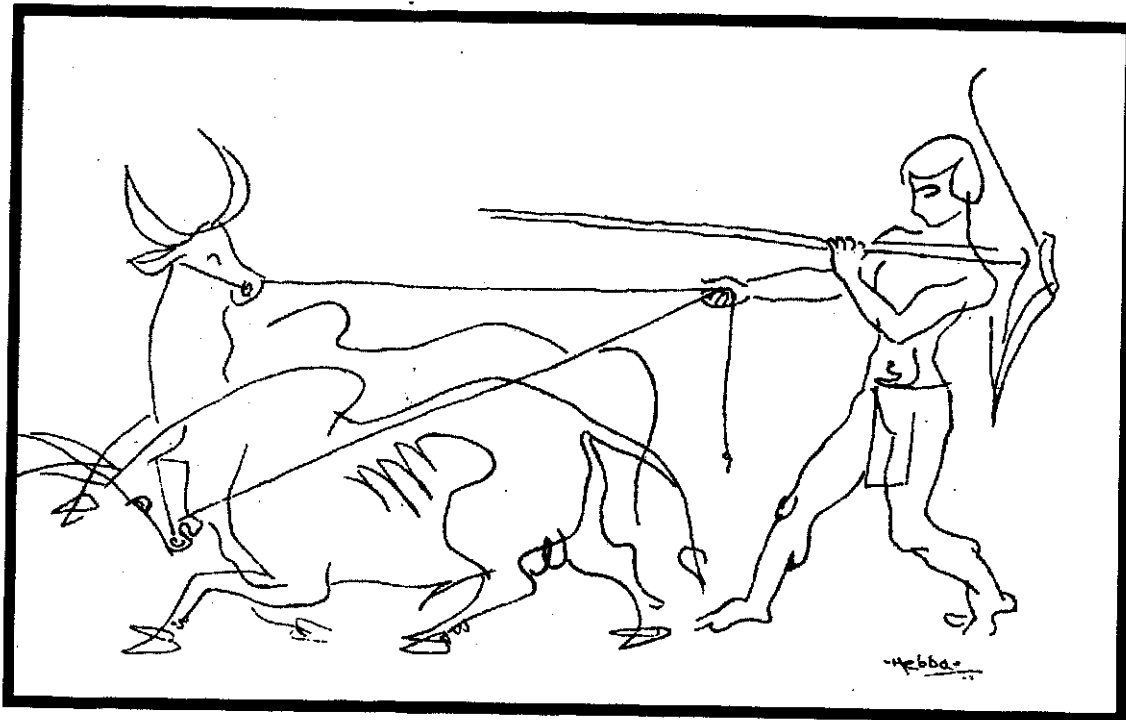


Fig. 5.2

5.3 DEFINITION OF DRAWING

Drawing is a way to arrange the world visually. Drawing is a means of recording what one sees and experiences in the world around oneself. We use drawing to work out ideas and analysis of it leads to seeing and understanding.



Fig 5.3

5.4 BASIC MATERIAL

The first step is to collect the following tools and other material for sketching:

- **Drawing board:** Any rigid and smooth surface or plywood or hard board.
- **Paper:** For practice session, cartridge paper or any plain paper can be used.
- **Eraser:** Soft rubber of good quality should be used. It should be used very sparingly to erase incorrect drawing or superfluous lines.
- **Pencil:** An HB, 2B, 6B, and Charcoal pencil should be used. The lead should be blunt at the point at the time of sketching.
- **Clip:** A clip is useful to hold the pad or loose paper to your drawing board.

5.5 METHODS OF SKETCHING

- **How to hold a pencil:** Holding the pencil wrongly is often responsible for deep and rough lines resulting in spoiling the paper. The difficulty arises, mainly because students are accustomed to writing and writing causes for the direct movement of the fingers, while in drawing with a pencil, the movement comes from the wrist and the hand. The pencil should be held firmly from two inches from the point of the pencil. This distance will vary according to the size of the hand and the length of the line to be drawn.
- **Importance of lines:** It is necessary for the learners to practice to draw lines of different types. It will help to provide movement and sharpness while sketching. The important lines are horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and spiral etc. These lines are shown on the references of sketching as guide-lines for practice.
- **Understanding of Proportion:** A comparative relation between two things is called proportion. While sketching, it is necessary to see the human form, animals, birds, flowers, leaves, mountains and jungles in proper proportion. To place the figure properly on the page seems both simple and obvious but learner should bear in the mind the basic proportion of the human figure and object. The ideal or standardized proportion of the human body is approximately seven and a half heads high. Take the head from the crown to the end of the chin as a unit of measurement. Height of the people is affected by native and geographical condition. (Fig. 5.4A, 5.4B)

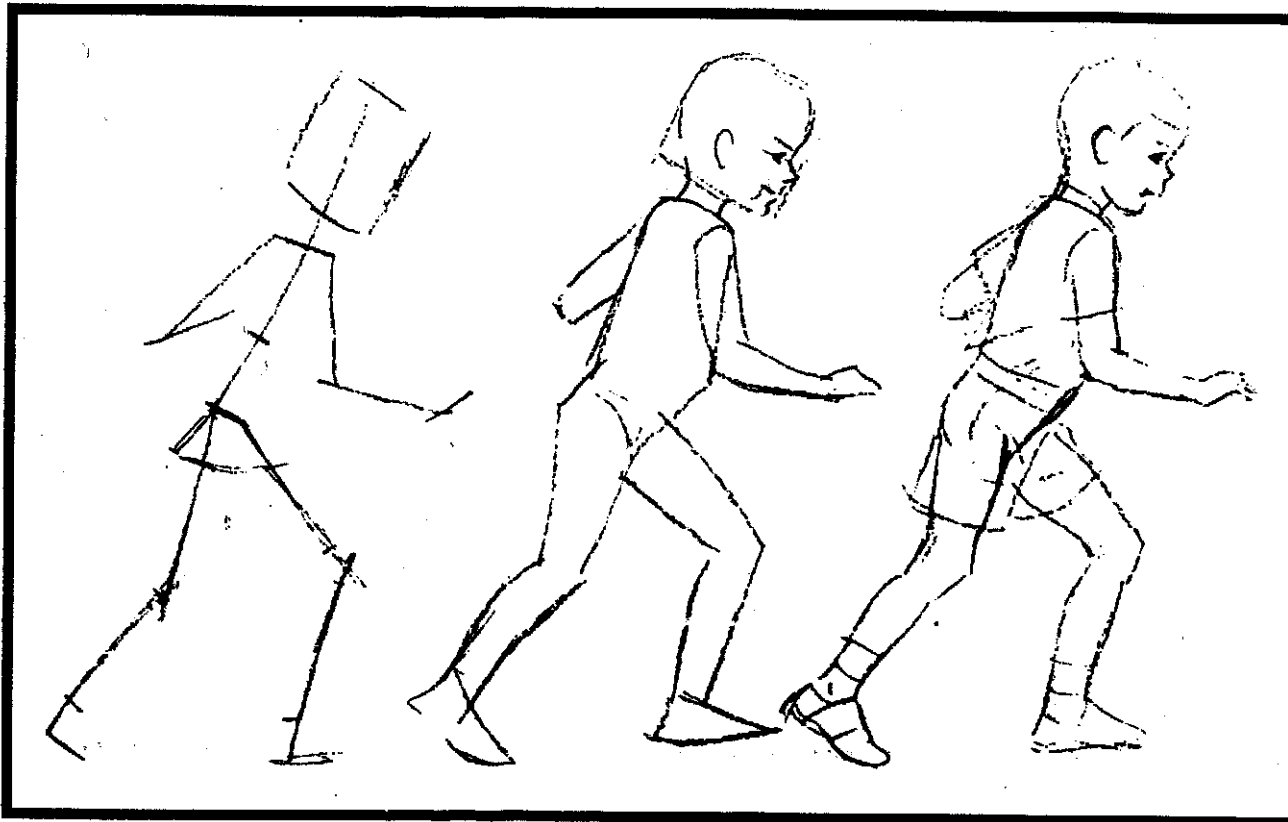


Fig. 5.4A

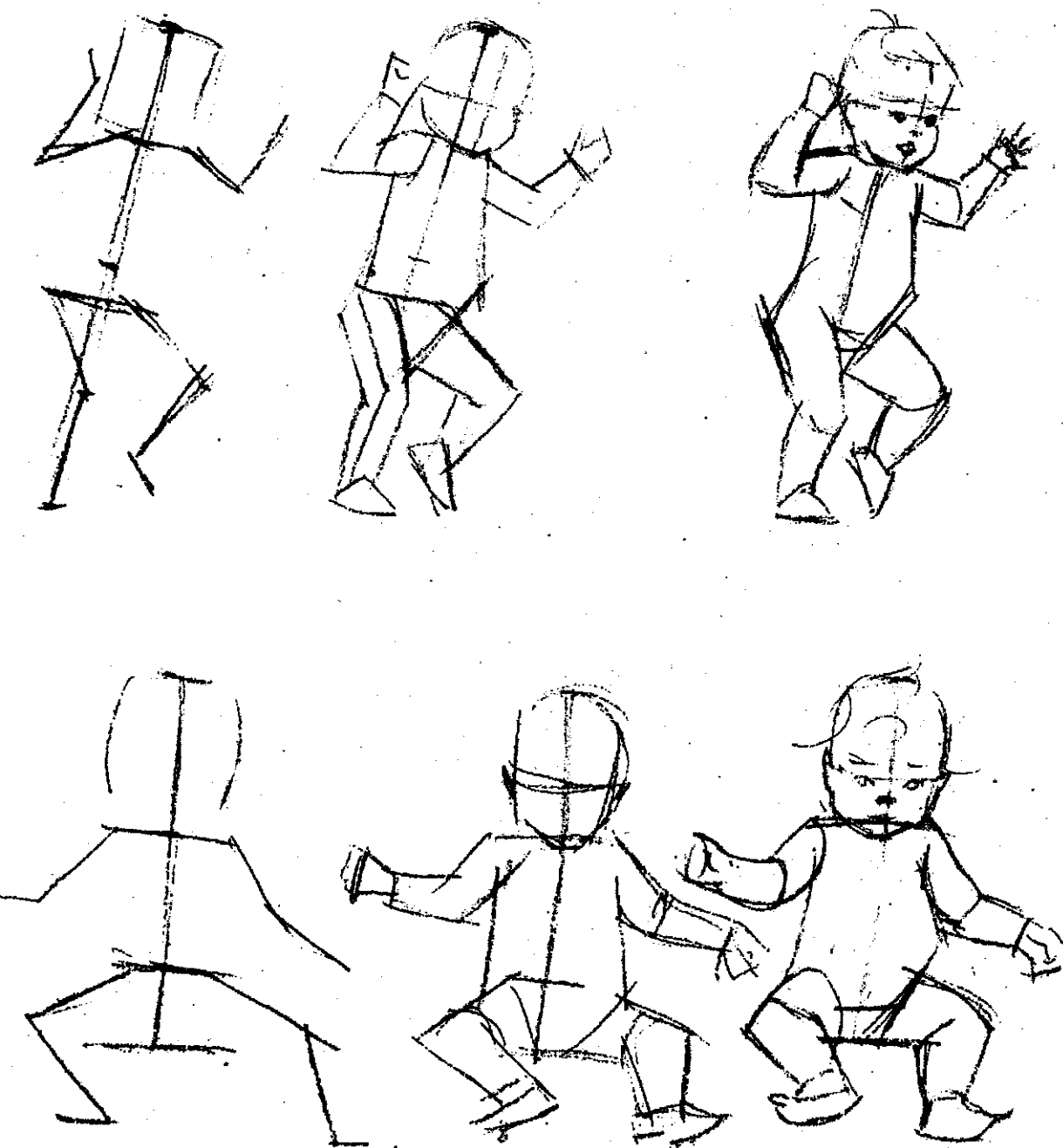


Fig. 5.4B

- **Placing the Object:** Sit fairly close to your object and focus your eyes on some starting point along the contour (outline) of the object placing your pencil on the paper. Imagine that your pencil point is actually touching the object. The pencil can be held lightly. Use a simple block- construction methods shown on the reference of sketching at his stage. (Fig. 5.5A, 5.5B, 5.5C, 5.5D)

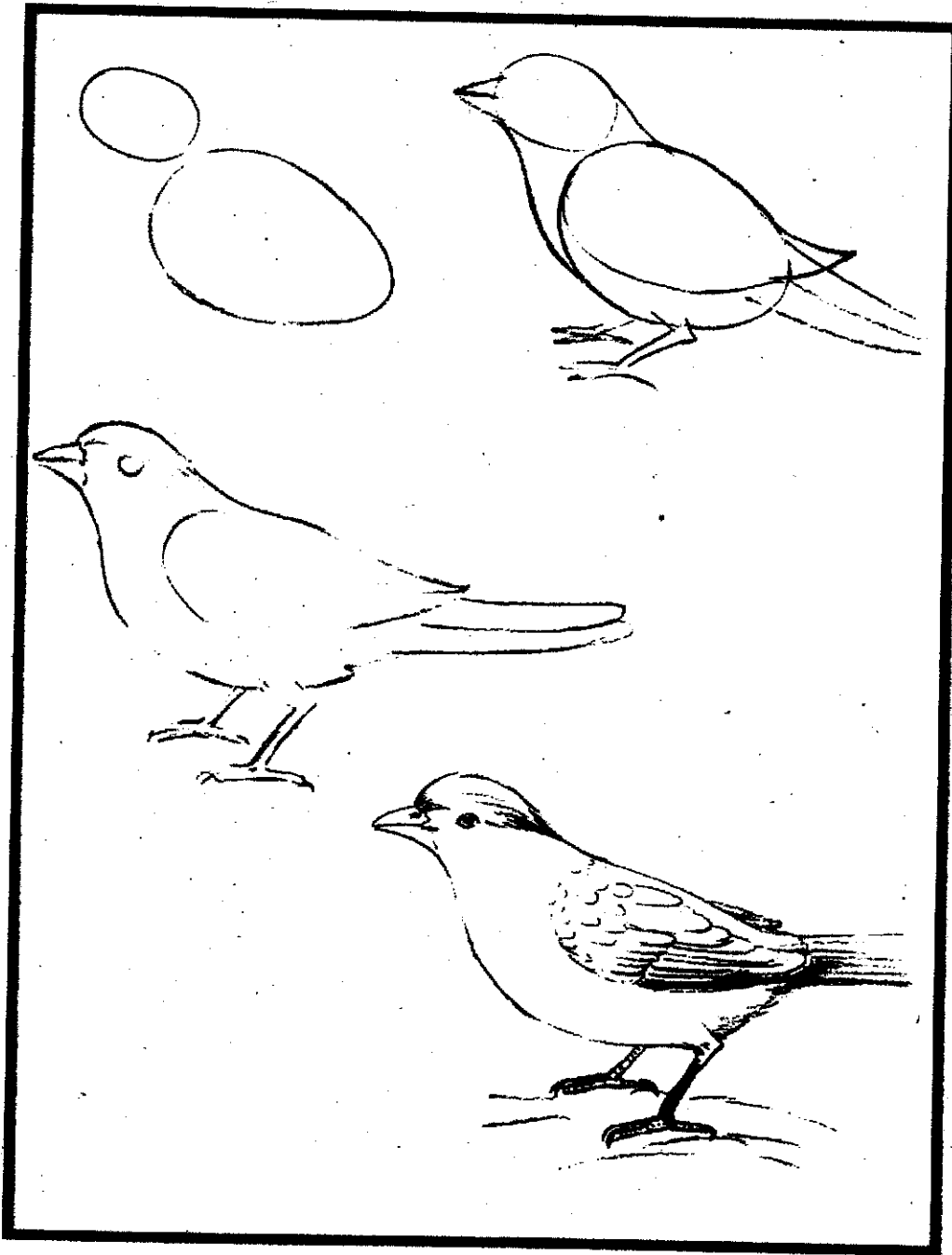


Fig. 5.5A



Fig. 5.5B

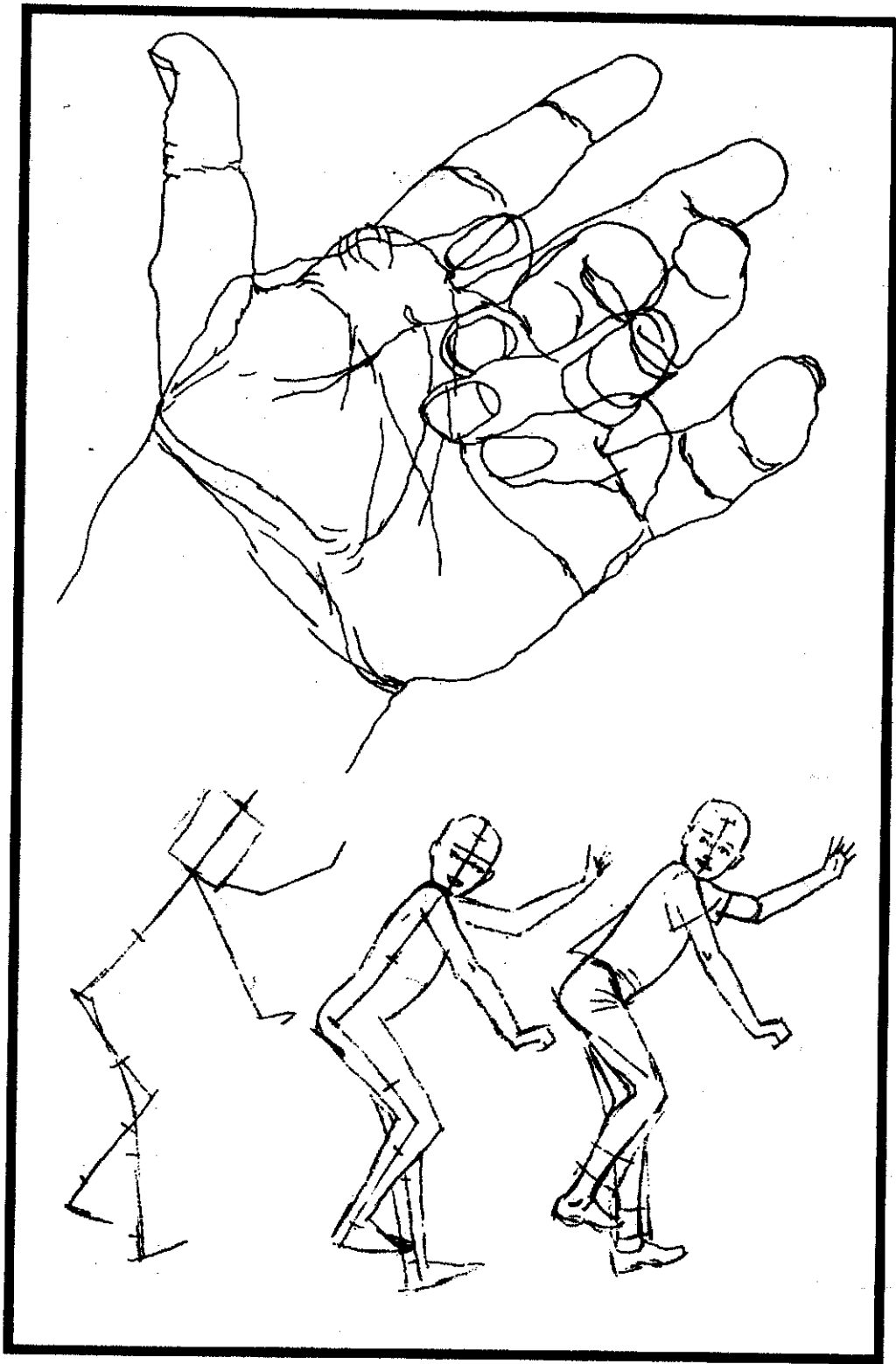


Fig. 5.5C

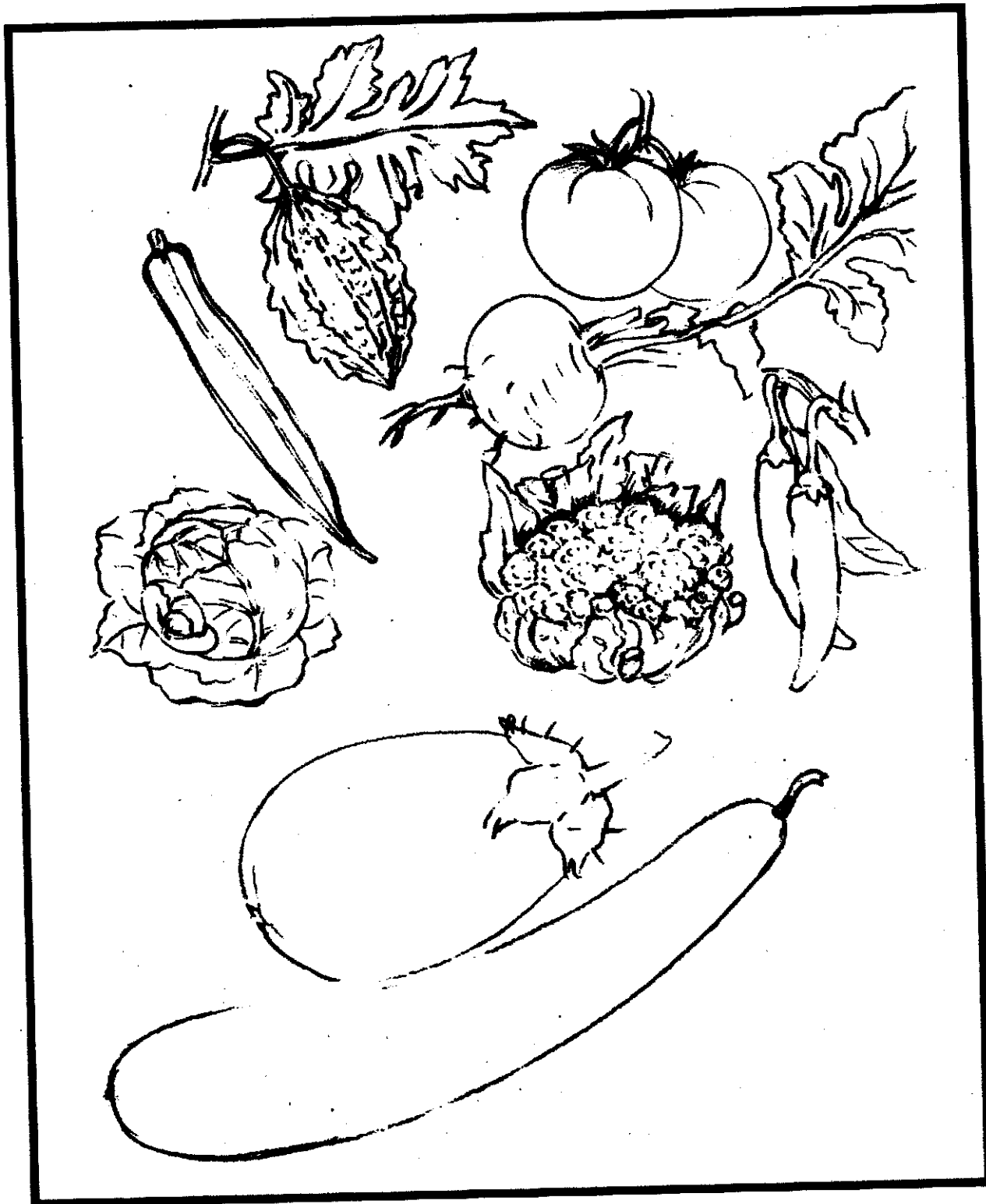


Fig. 5.5D

5.6 SKETCHING FROM MEMORY

Students prefer to draw entirely from memory even if they are told to sketch by viewing only. They will put something from their vague recollection of the object. This will be a creation rather than copying because they are able to transcend the object in their own way through memory. (Fig. 5.6, 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9)

Suppose if you have to draw a tree or any animal from memory, first see it and close your eyes and imagine the shape through the eyes of mind. How it looks? This will improve the observation and unfold your creativity.

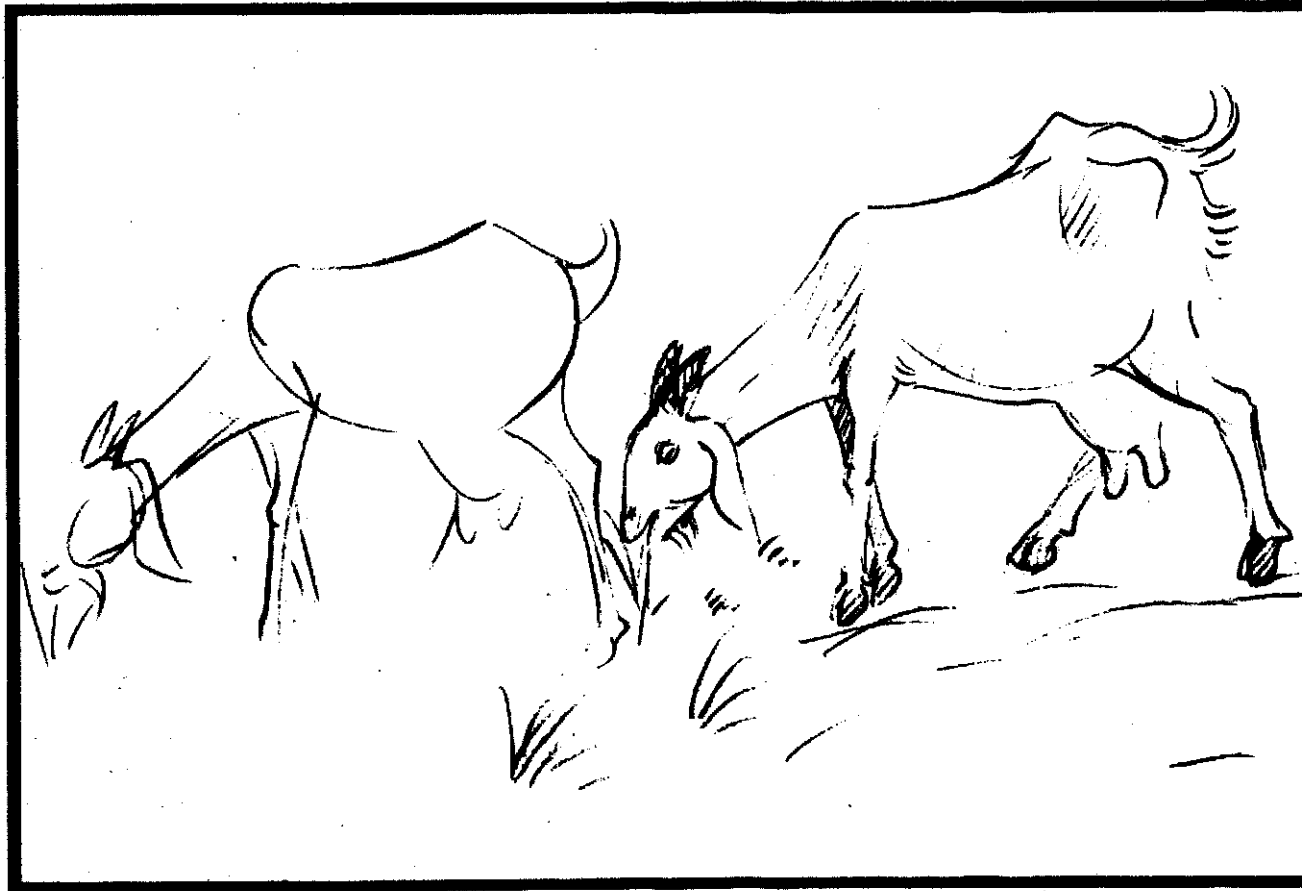


Fig. 5.6

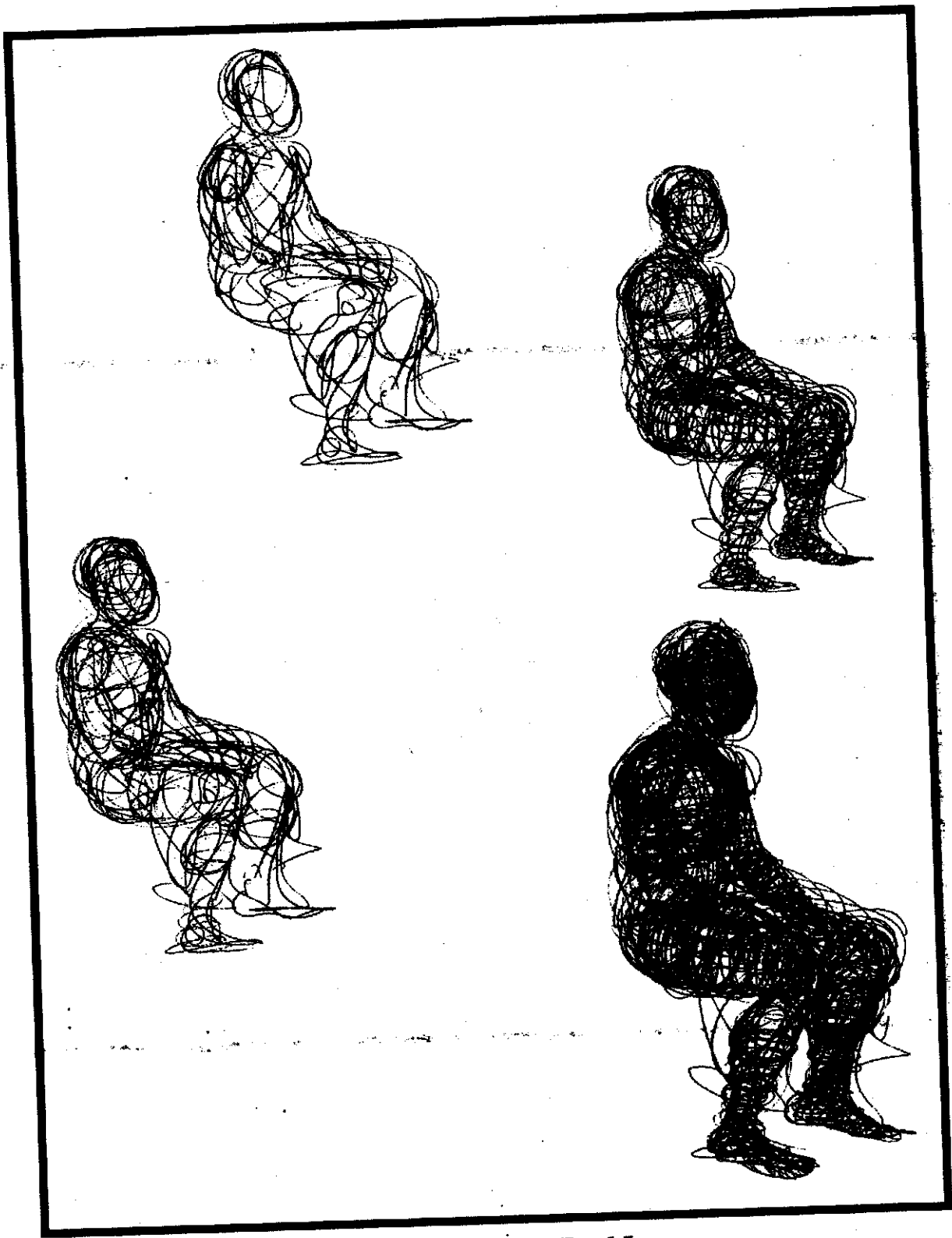


Fig. 5.7

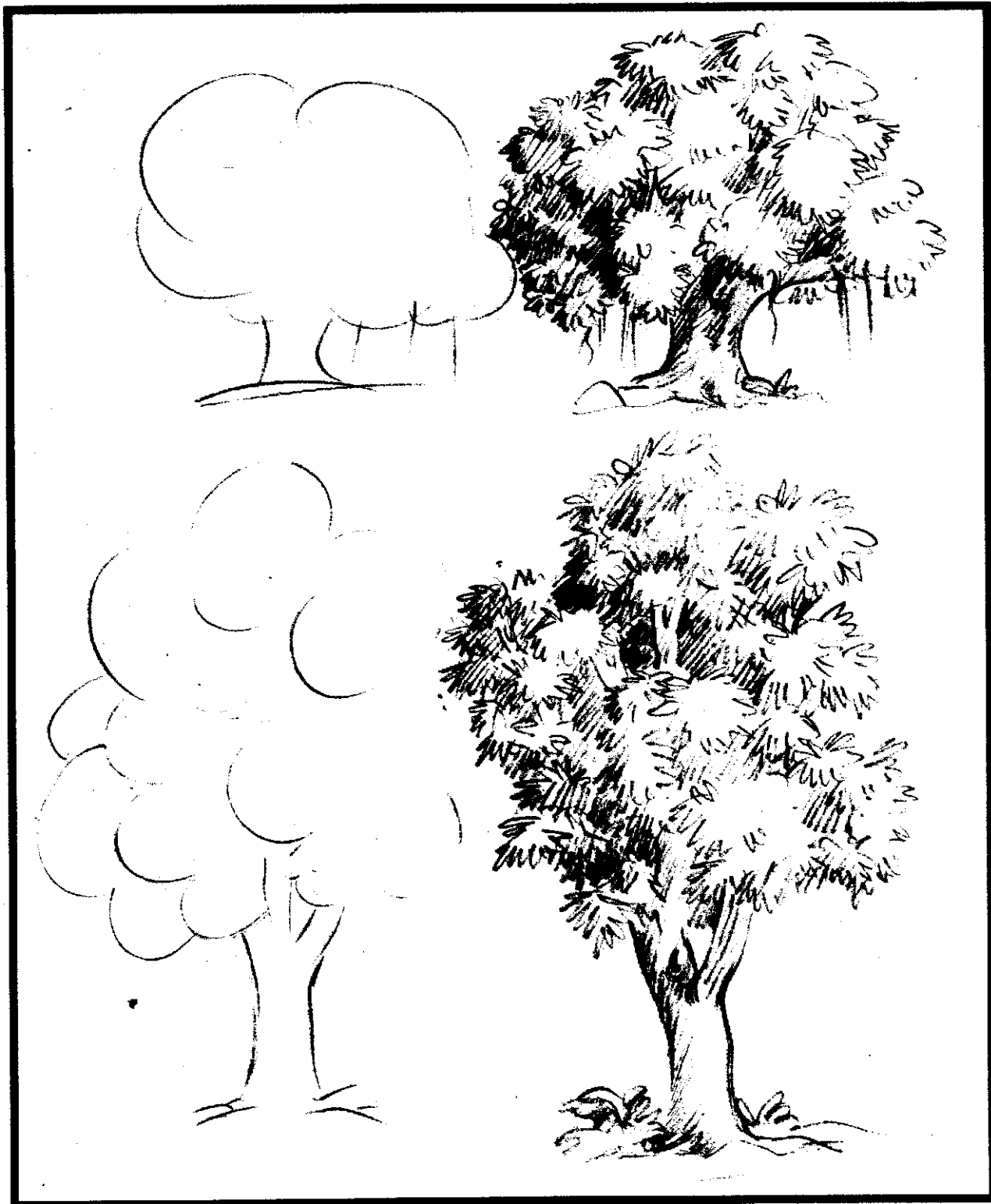


Fig. 5.8

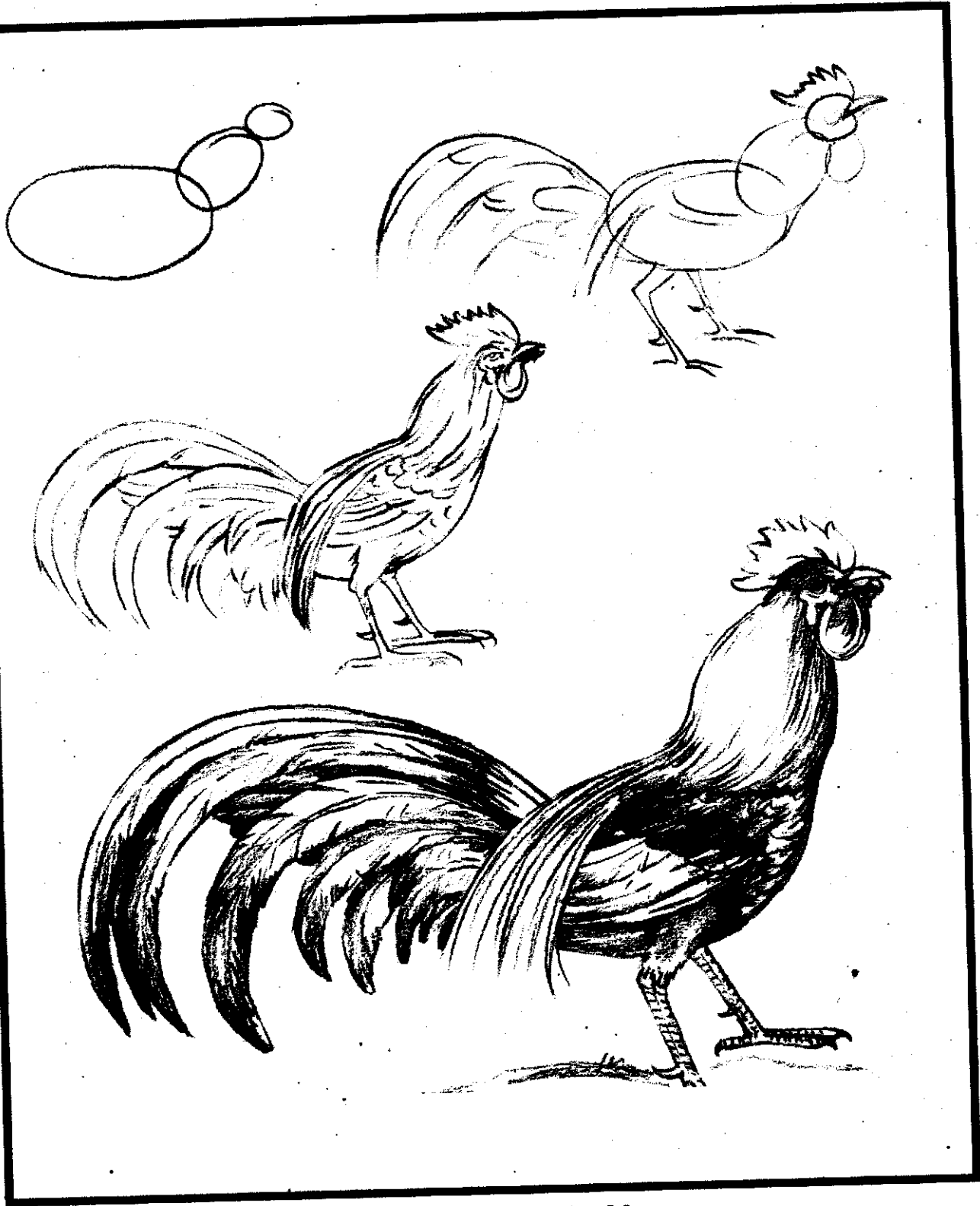


Fig. 5.9

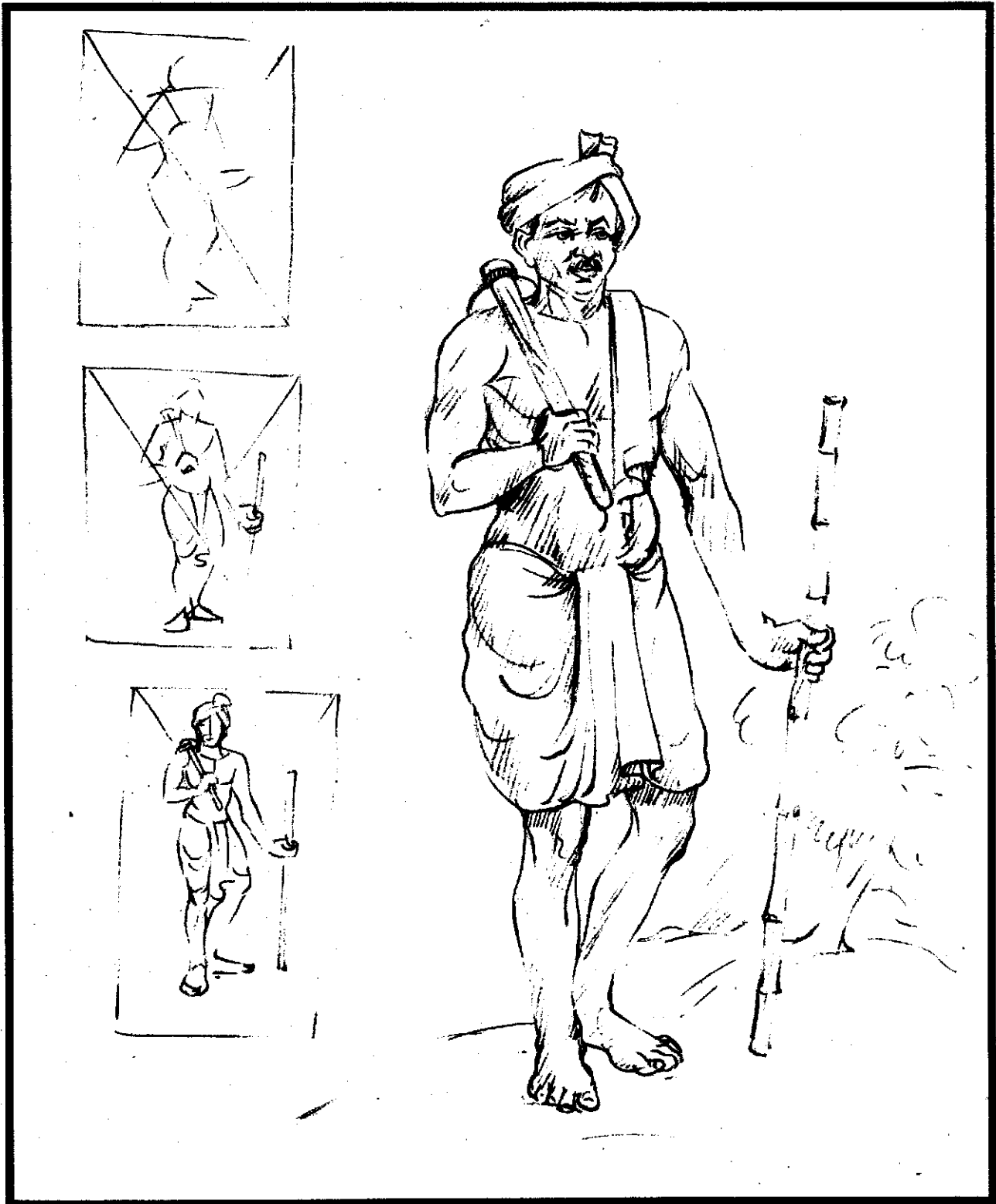


Fig. 5.10

5.7 SUMMARY

Sketching is the first step to realize one's feelings and thoughts. By practicing the learner can develop his/her imagination creativity and his/her skills. The basic material required for sketching include drawing board, paper eraser, pencil and clip. The learner should know the methods of sketching such as how to hold a pencil, how to draw lines of different types, seeing different objects in proper proportion, placement of the object and sketching from memory.

5.8 INTEXT QUESTIONS

1. Make a composition of sketches of vegetables.
2. Do practice of human anatomy from given sketches.
3. Do sketches of your pet animals.
4. Observe some objects in your home and sketch them.
5. Draw the local market scene by your memory.

5.9 GLOSSARY

Line - Line is symbolic mark denoting movement metered by our eyes.

Tone - Tone is a degree of value between black and white.

Form - The area which is covered by colour or line is known as form.

Space - Space is the volume occupied by form.