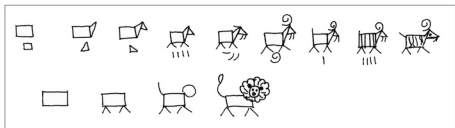


## ACTIVITY VISUAL ALPHABET

1. Set aside part of your visual learning notebook (say, the first ten pages) to create a doodle dictionary. A doodle dictionary is a visual repository of representational doodles you can use again and again. I'll go more into the doodle dictionary later in this chapter. For now, designate part of your notebook as the dictionary and do this exercise on those pages.
2. Re-create the visual alphabet on the inside cover of your notebook to make it easier to access whenever you need it.
3. On your doodle dictionary pages, using only the letters of the visual alphabet, create a doodle of each of the following:
  - an animal
  - a thing
  - a place
  - an action

For example, in the step-by-step illustration below, I started with a rectangle and then used triangles for the neck and head. Next, I used lines for legs, a beard, and an ear. Then, a spiral for a horn, a dot for an eye, and “Voilà!” it's a goat. A good resource for these visual step-by-step directions is Ed Emberley's *Drawing Book: Make a World*.



For further practice, try doodling these in your notebook:

- bike
- camera
- cat
- clock
- dog
- Earth
- fish
- house
- lightbulb
- pen
- pencil
- school

The visual alphabet is our go-to source for elements that illustrate complex thinking in simple doodles or designs. We will revisit it again and again as we practice forming its shapes and letters like we did when we were first learning our verbal alphabet.

### Extension Activity

Create one or two new representational doodles in your visual learning notebook each day. It's great practice and becomes a fun daily activity. A two-minute doodle break reinforces and validates doodling while also providing a visual interlude. Teachers have consistently reported that students look forward to their quick doodle breaks.