



The lead pencil

Name: _____

Drawing A/B; Per. _____

date: _____

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box below.

The graphite pencil, more commonly known as the lead pencil, is the most frequently used _____ for drawing. _____ is a solid mineral that has a metallic brightness and a waxy, greasy consistency. It was discovered in Cumberland, England, in 1560, but it was not until 1640 that it reached France as an implement of _____. In 1792, during the French Revolution, England broke its ties with France and stopped supplying France with graphite. It was then that the French engineer and chemist Nicolas Jacques Conté developed the _____ crayon, composed of a mixture of graphite and clay and covered with cedarwood. Conté also developed soft lead and hard lead pencils to create _____ effects by changing the amount of graphite in relation to the clay.

The original quality of these early pencils has been improved. Today, manufacturers make pencils of different quality and gradations, namely:

1. *High quality pencils with seventeen gradations ranging from softest to hardest:*

8B, 7B, 6B, 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB, F, H, 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H, 6H, 7H, 8H, 9H.,.

2. *School quality pencils with three gradations:*

No. 1, soft, equivalent to **2B**;

No. 2, equivalent to **B**;

No. 3., hard, equivalent to **H**

drawing tool Graphite Conté darker or lighter