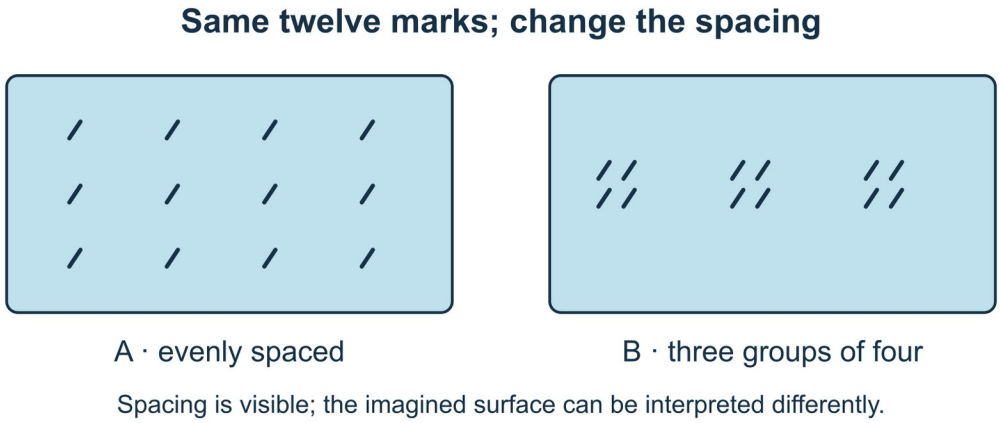
A texture made of marks

How can repeated marks suggest a surface without copying a photograph?

Use repeated lines to suggest a surface, then show what changed in the arrangement.

Make | 10–20 minutes, or one comparison | The supplied example, read or heard, Optional scrap paper and a pen or pencil

Start here Look at the two supplied patches: each contains 12 short slanting marks. A spaces them evenly; B gathers them into three groups of four.



Twelve marks, two arrangements

1 Choose a mark

Draw one small slanting line, or use the supplied mark. Repeat it 12 times in a rectangular patch without trying to depict a real object.

2 Rearrange the same marks

Make a second patch with 12 similar lines gathered into three groups of four. Keep the mark size and direction similar; change the spacing.

3 Describe a possible texture

Name a visible feature first: ‘three tight groups’. Then suggest a surface it could evoke. A drawing can suggest roughness without its paper actually becoming rough.

4 Keep a useful comparison

Label the two patches and choose which arrangement you would develop, if either. You can also explain the example without making your own.

Original model twelve marks two arrangements

These invented patches compare mark spacing. They do not copy a photograph or show a measured physical surface.

• A contains 12 evenly spaced slanting marks.

• B contains the same 12 marks in three groups of four.

• ‘More clustered’ describes B; ‘looks bark-like’ is one possible interpretation.

What this example can show Spacing can suggest texture, but this pair does not show that every viewer sees the same surface or that the paper has changed texture.

A different way

Compare the supplied patches by pointing, speaking or directing someone else to place the marks. No touching or collecting surfaces is needed.

If you want to go further

Keep spacing fixed in a third patch and change only mark direction. Compare how each change affects your reading.

Something to notice

Which part was visible spacing, and which part was an imagined surface?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Texture Marks

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/texture-marks/

Horizon topic Print Patterns

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/print-patterns/

Horizon topic Art

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/art/

National Gallery of Art The Elements of Art: Texture

https://www.nga.gov/educational-resources/elements-art/elements-art-texture

National Gallery of Art The Elements of Art: Line

https://www.nga.gov/educational-resources/elements-art/elements-art-line