

# Year 4 Art: Illuminated Letters

## Designing an illuminated initial

### Subject Specific Vocabulary

<b>illuminated</b>	Decorate (a page or initial letter in a manuscript) with gold, silver, or coloured designs.
<b>illuminator</b>	The creator of the decorated letters.
<b>manuscript</b>	A book, document, or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed.
<b>initial</b>	The first letter of a name or word.
<b>text</b>	A book or other written or printed work.
<b>decorated</b>	Make (something) look more attractive by adding extra items or images to it.
<b>mythical</b>	Something imaginary that only exists in stories.
<b>sketch</b>	A rough drawing representing the chief features of an object or scene.



### Sticky Knowledge

- ❑ During the Middle Ages all books were handmade works of art. These manuscripts were often beautifully illustrated, with gold or silver leaf used to reflect light on the page. The word illumination, meaning 'to light up', is used to describe this decoration on the pages of a book.
- ❑ An illuminated letter was usually the first letter of a page. These were large and colourful, with areas in gold, while the rest of the text was black. The images used to illustrate the letters included animals, plants and mythical creatures.
- ❑ Because not many people could read at this time, illuminated letters were a way of communicating a story or message without using words.
- ❑ The illuminator would start by making a rough sketch and then outline that with pen. The gold leaf was added first, followed by the other colours.

### Key Skills

- I can experiment with showing line, tone and texture with different hardness of pencils.
- I can show an awareness of space when drawing.
- I can use different materials to draw, e.g. pastels, chalk, felt tips.
- I can use shading to show light and shadow effects.
- I can use key vocabulary to demonstrate my knowledge and understanding of drawing, e.g. light, dark, tone, line, pattern, texture, form, shape, outline.