

Principles of Design:

Proportion

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Proportion is the **relationship of two or more elements in a design** and how they compare with one another, in terms of **size and scale**.

Proportion is said to be **harmonious** when a correct or desirable relationship exists between the elements with respect to size, color, quantity, degree, or setting.

Good proportion adds harmony, symmetry, or balance among the parts of a design.



What appears to be the larger item in this photo (of the Arc de Triomphe)? Why does it appear to be the largest?

You've probably figured out that the Arc de Triomphe is the largest. You should have made the conclusion that it's the largest, because the people in front of it appear small in relation to the monument. **This is how proportion can be used to show the relationship of size.**



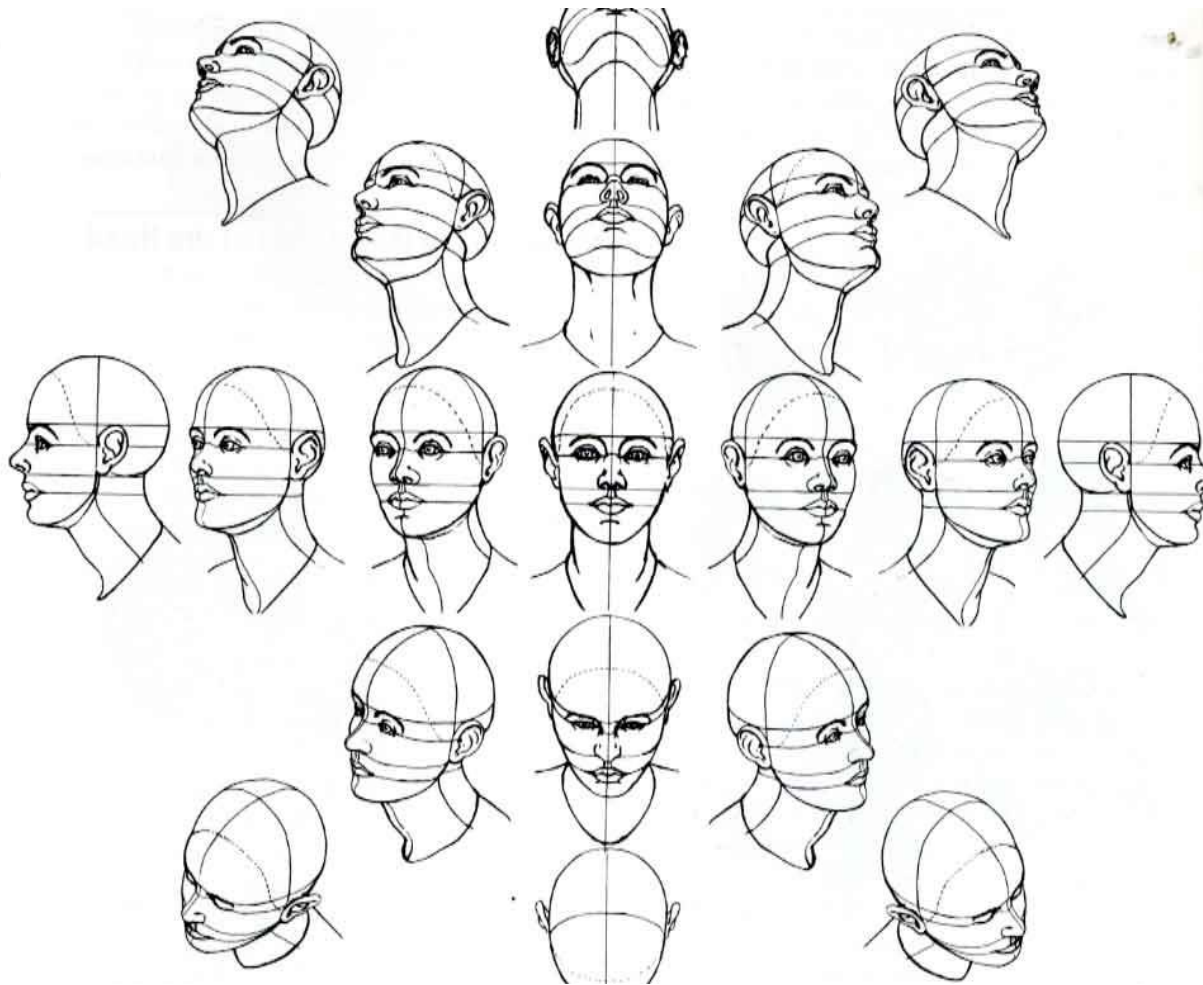
What is the proportion here? What does the proportion do to this photo? How can you use this effect in your own artwork?

The **emphasis** on the shell, which is done by positioning and size, makes this photo appear as though it has depth. The sky-scrapers in the background still are rather tall, which gives use a sense of depth. The shell also appears larger than it probably is in real life. **This proportion can be used to fool the eye.**



In this photo, how is proportion used?

This photo is very much like the other two in that **it shows the relationship of size**. This photo is a close up photo that shows you the relationship between a baby's hand and an adult's hand. You can tell that the adult's hand is larger, because the tip of the thumb is the only thing that can fit into the baby's hand.



In this photo, how is proportion used? It is used to depict the relative proportions used in various angles when the head is tilted.