Lunar Impressions:
Sketching the moon by the take-away method

The Astronomical League
www.astroleague.org
Before astro-photography, sketching was the only way to record lunar features.

Lunar Crater Gassendi, 1852.

John Phillips, 'Notices of some parts of the Surface of the Moon', Phil. Trans. R.S., 158 (1868), 333-46.
Sketching improves your observing skills. It increases the detail of what you see.

After all, a crater is more than just a bowl shaped depression.
The real challenge is remembering what you see through the eyepiece, then transferring that mental image to paper — while doing it all in subdued light.
Your material needs are simple:
• Pencils — 2H, HB through 4B
• Blending Stumps (or tissues)
  • Eraser
  • Paper
Shade an area 4 x 4 inches or larger
Blend the shaded area
Lightly trace the outline of the object
Erase the shaded areas that are too dark
Add darker shade to those areas that need it.
Then blend.
Add detail and blend.
After 15 minutes:  

After 3.8 billion years:
Our target craters on an 11 day old moon:

- Lambert
- Pytheas
- Copernicus
Remember the steps:
1. Shade and Blend
2. Lightly Outline
3. Take Away (Erase)
4. Shade and Blend
5. Add detail and Blend

Now, it’s your turn!