



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

***The Astronomical League***

[www.astroleague.org](http://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.**



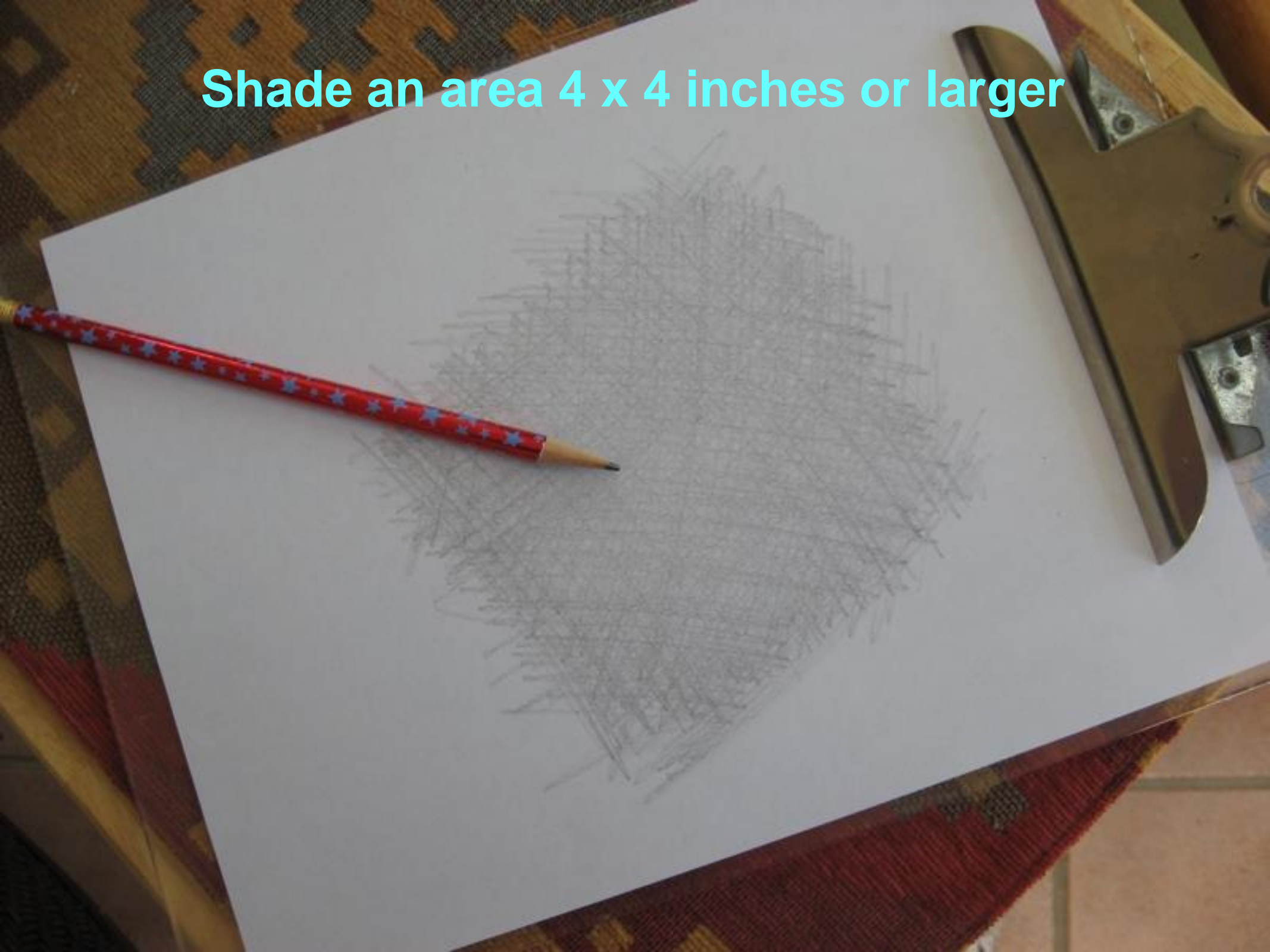
**The real challenge is remembering what you see through the eyepiece, then transferring that mental image to paper — while doing it all in subdued light.**

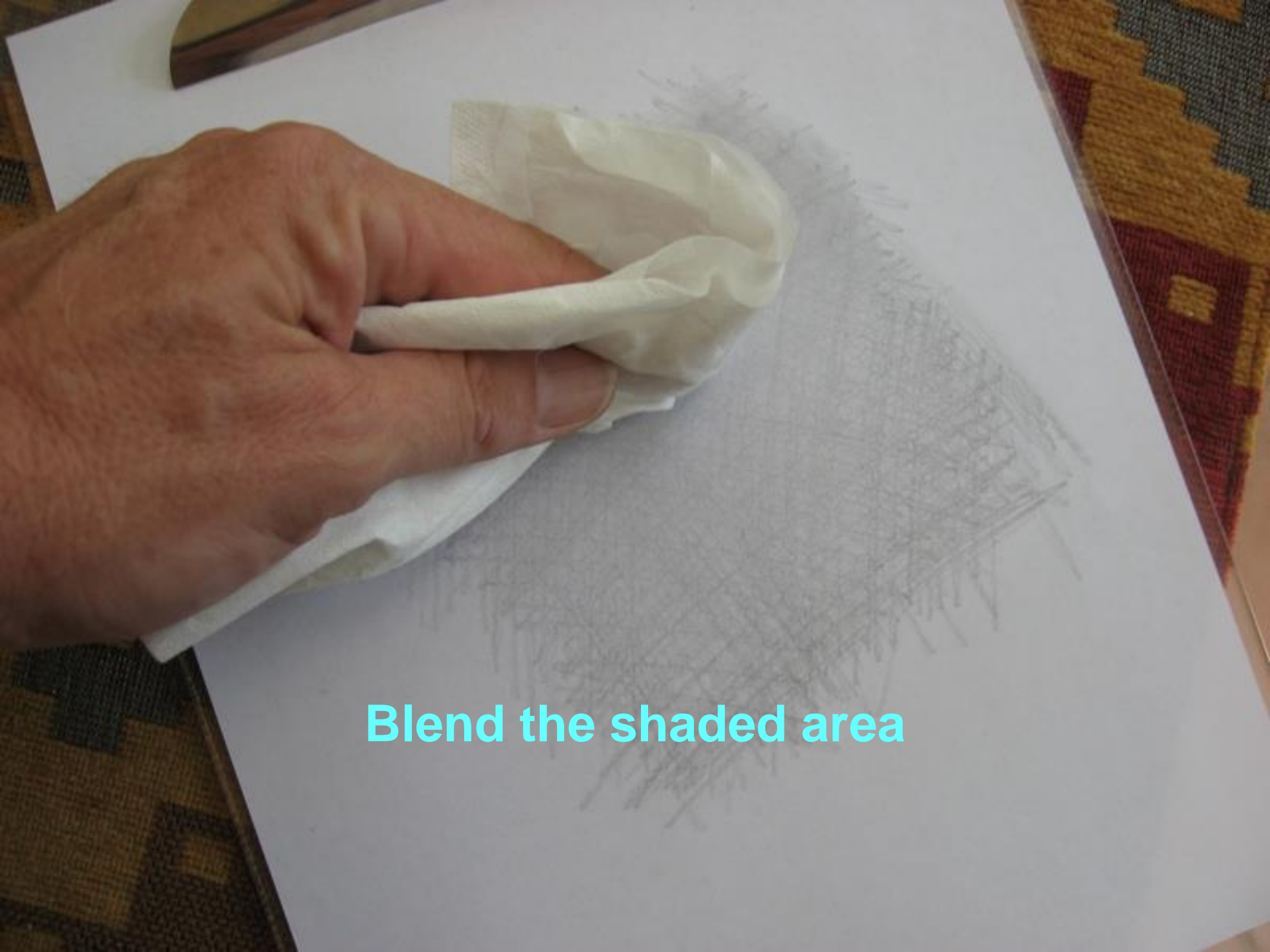
Your material needs are simple:

- Pencils — 2H, HB through 4B
- Blending Stumps (or tissues)
  - Eraser
  - Paper



**Shade an area 4 x 4 inches or larger**





**Blend the shaded area**



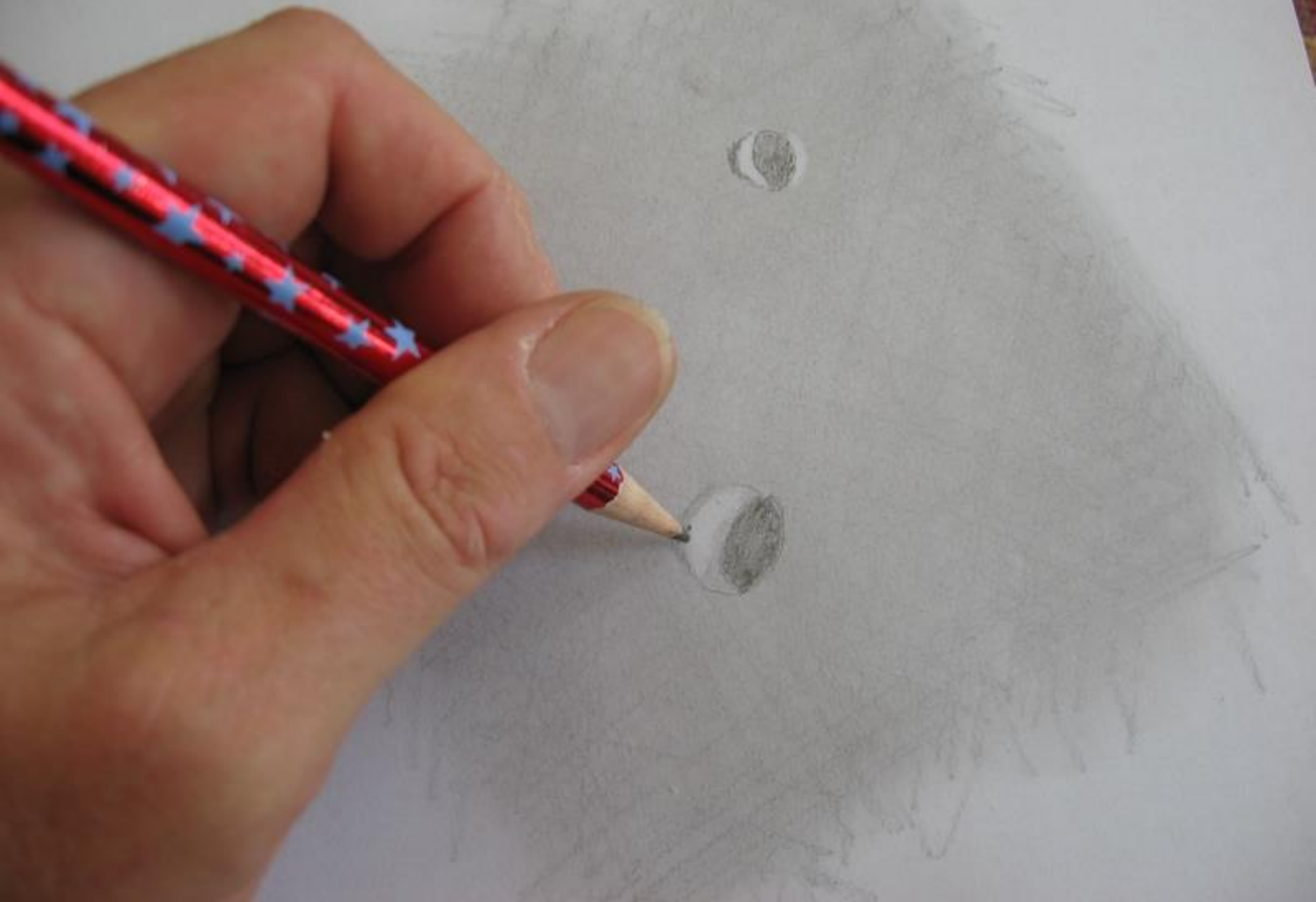
**Lightly trace the outline of the object**



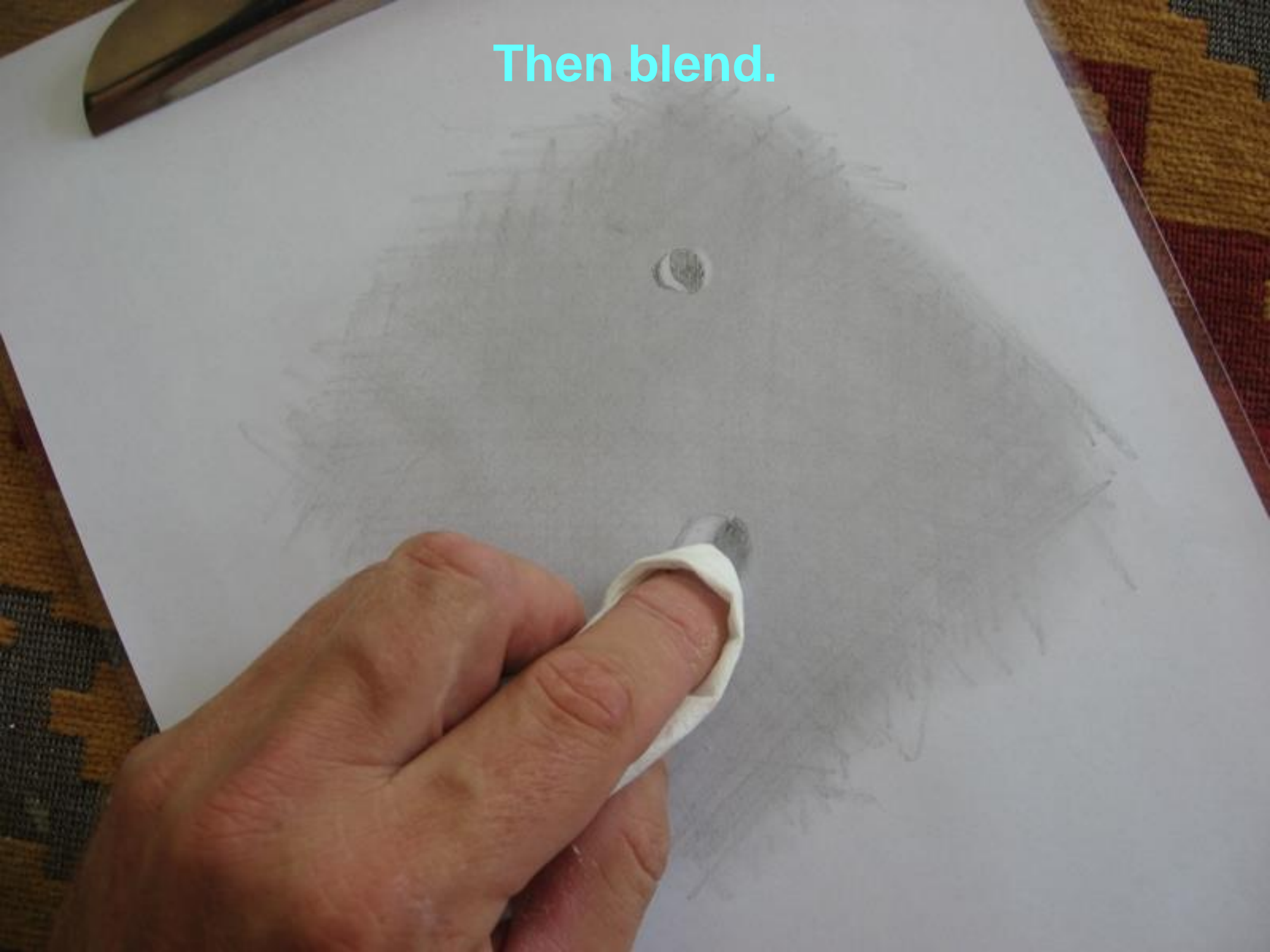
Erase the shaded areas that are too dark



**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!**

