



# **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.**



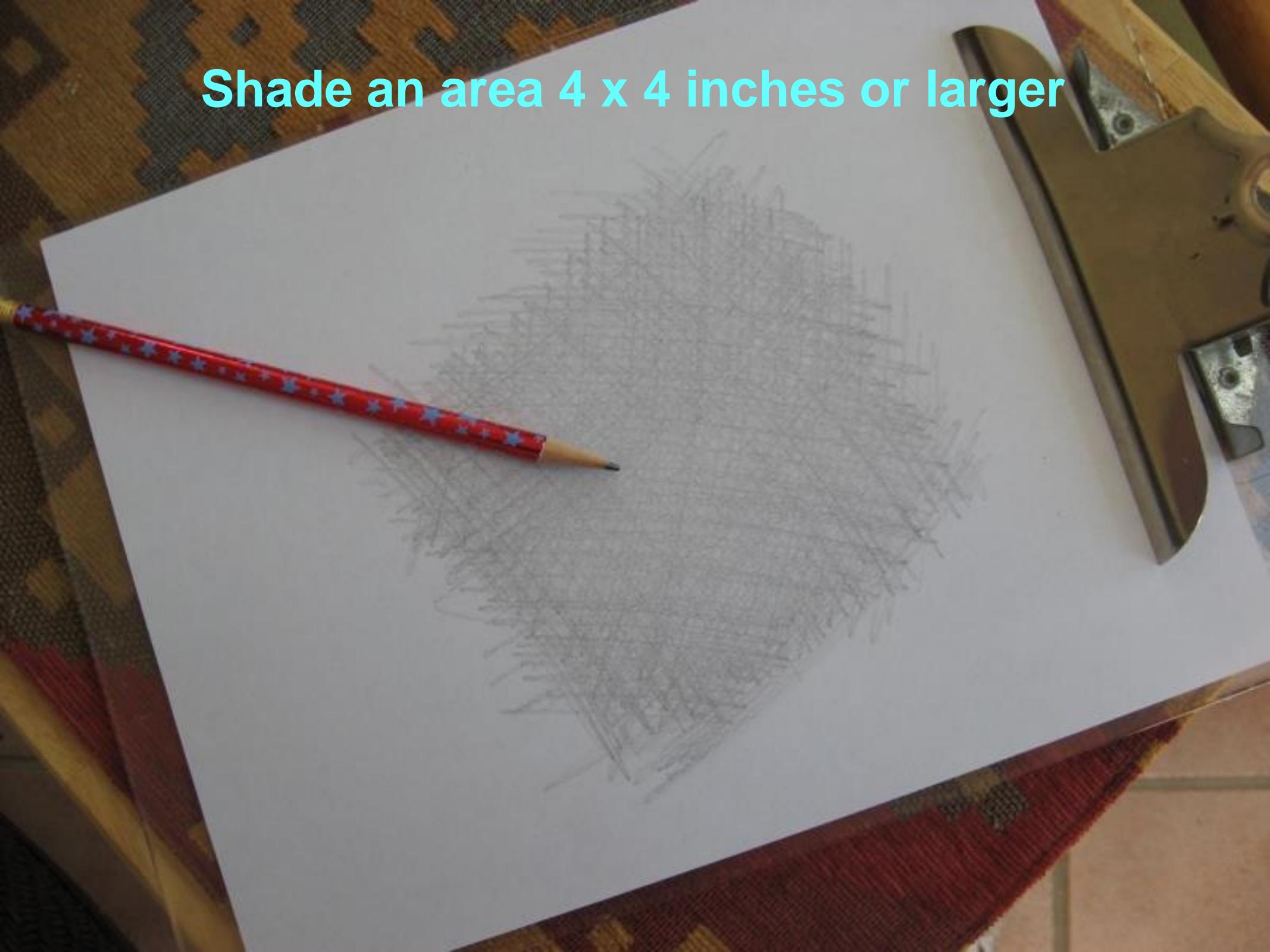
The real challenge is remembering what you see through the eyepiece, then transferring that mental image to paper — while doing it all in subdued light.

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**



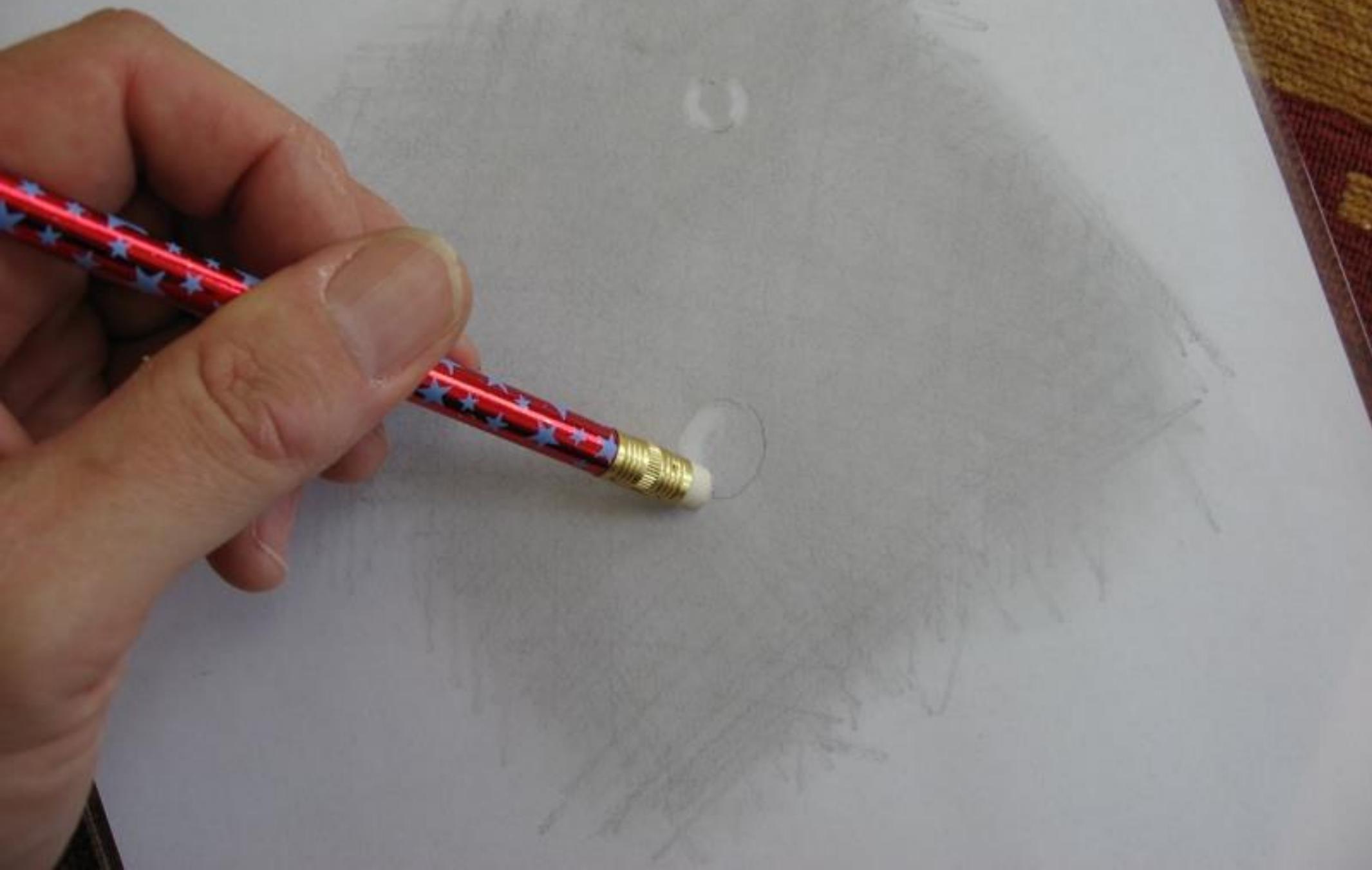


Blend the shaded area

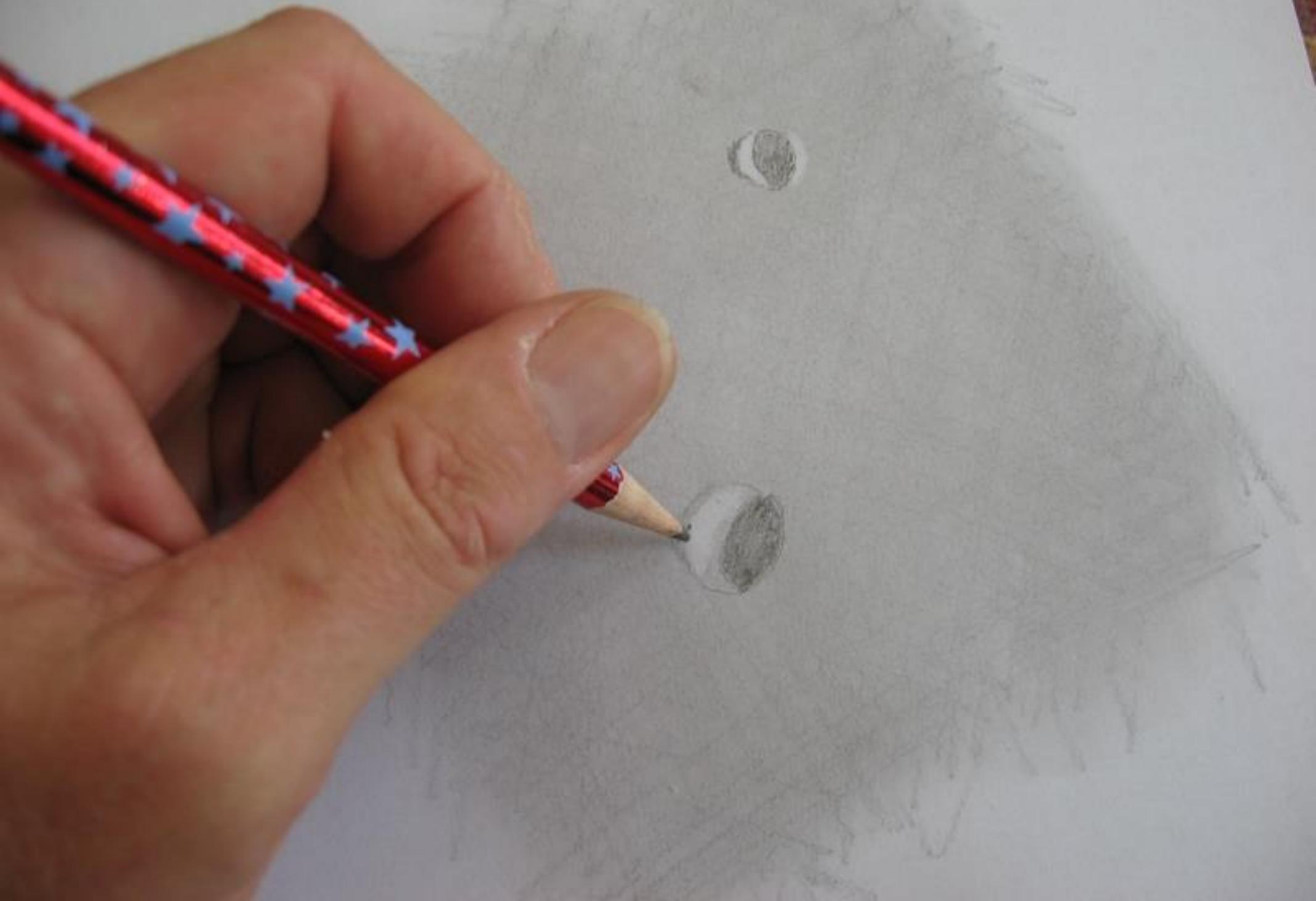


**Lightly trace the outline of the object**

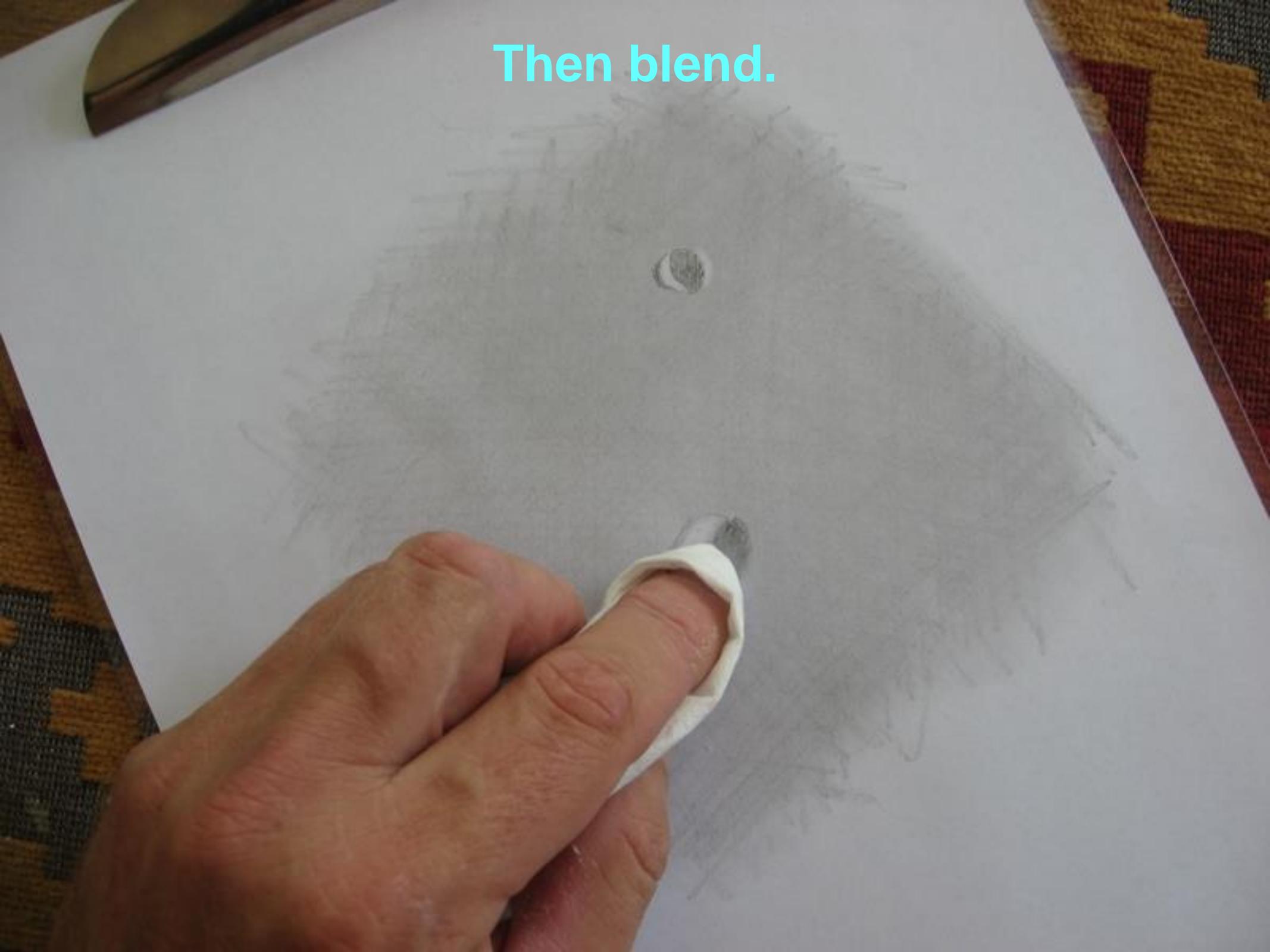
Erase the shaded areas that are too dark



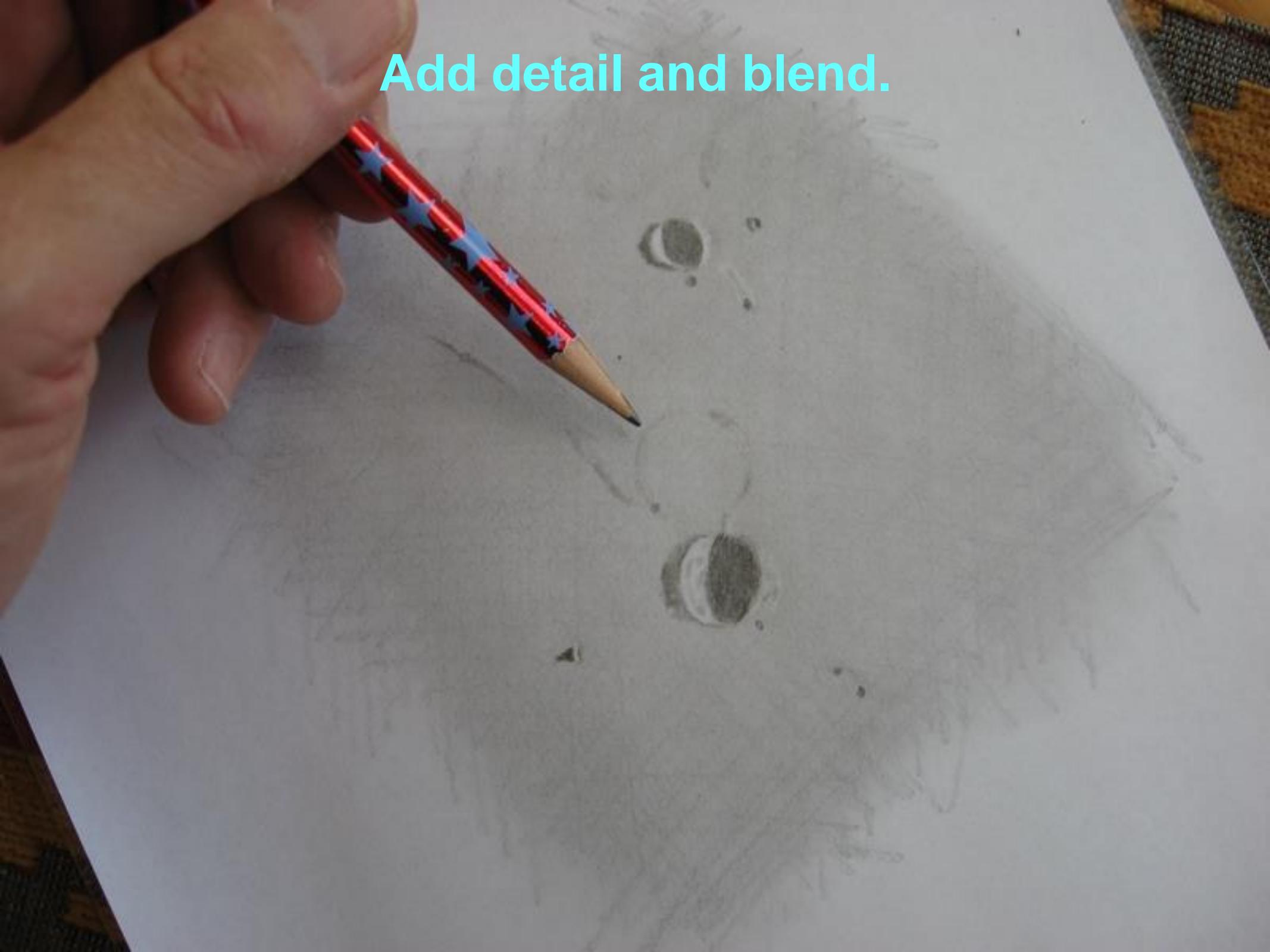
Add darker shade to those areas that need it.



Then blend.



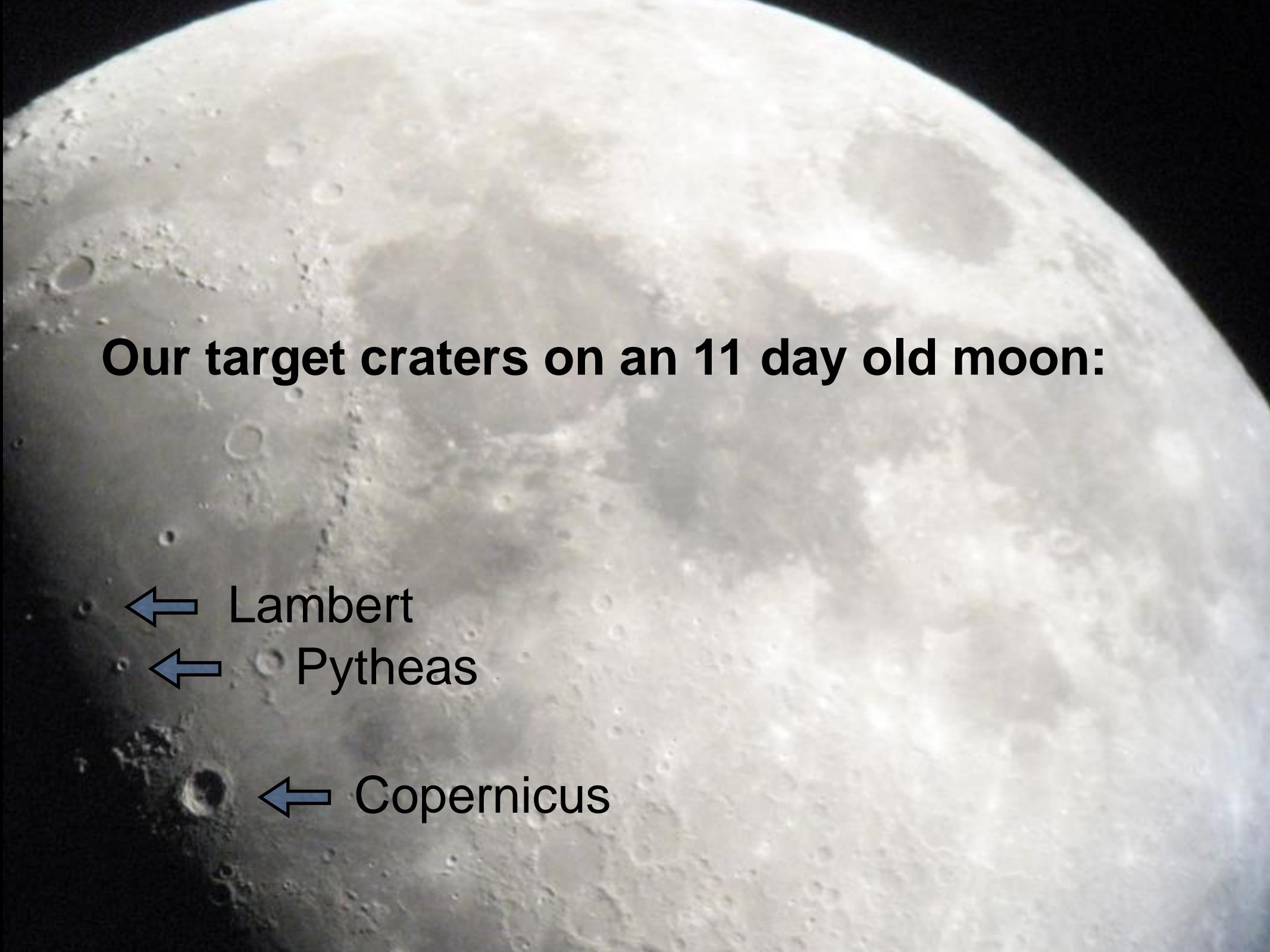
Add detail and blend.





After 15 minutes:

After 3.8 billion years:



**Our target craters on an 11 day old moon:**

← Lambert

← Pytheas

← Copernicus

Inverted telescope image

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!



Sunlight  
Direction