

**John Biglin in a Single Scull**

1. Describe the rower's arms.
2. What did Eakins need to know in order to accurately draw and paint this man's arms?
3. How did Eakins show distance in this painting?
4. Where are the spaces between the ripples largest?
5. In watercolor, artists sometimes purposely leave areas blank to reveal the white color of the paper.
6. Where do you see very white areas that are probably the paper?
7. Ask students what geometric shape Biglin's head, body, boat, and arms form, and ask them to point out the shape.
8. Ask students which direction the boat is moving.
9. Which boat is ahead in the scull race?
10. Imagine where the second boat could be within a minute or two.
11. Have students describe this man's expression. What can you tell about his character from this painting?
12. What does this picture suggest about Americans' leisure activities in the late 1880s?
13. Why is Biglin the only single scull rower shown in the painting?

**Geography:** rivers

**Science:** anatomy

**Literary Connections and Primary**

**Documents:** Eakins's letters home to his family; *Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain ; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

**Arts:** photography; Realism