

Exploring Landscapes with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the key elements of landscape art and the vocabulary used to describe natural and urban environments.

Read each flashcard to learn about landscape techniques. Zara the zebra loves patterns in nature—can you spot them in these definitions?

Landscape

A piece of artwork that depicts natural scenery, such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, and forests.

Foreground

The part of the artwork that appears closest to the viewer, usually containing the most detail.

Background

The part of the artwork that appears furthest away, often showing the sky or distant hills.

Horizon Line

The imaginary line where the earth meets the sky.

Composition

The way an artist arranges the different parts of a picture to make it look balanced and interesting.

Texture

The way an object in a painting looks like it would feel, such as rough bark or smooth water.

Landmark

A recognisable natural or man-made feature that stands out in a landscape, like a tall lighthouse or a jagged cliff.

Atmospheric Perspective

A technique used to create the illusion of depth by painting distant objects lighter, cooler, and less detailed.

Wash

A thin, watery layer of paint used to cover large areas of a landscape, like the sky or a calm sea.

Sketch

A quick, rough drawing used to plan the shapes and layout before starting a final painting.

What is the main difference between the foreground and the background in a landscape painting?

The foreground is the closest part with high detail, while the background is the furthest part which is usually less detailed.

Why do artists use a horizon line in their work?

It helps to anchor the picture and shows where the ground ends and the sky begins, providing a sense of scale.