

Zara's Still Life Masterpiece

Learning objective: To understand the elements of still life art, including composition, texture, and the use of light and shadow.

Zara the Zebra has set up a beautiful collection of objects for a still life drawing, but she needs help planning her composition. Read the definitions below and match them to the correct artistic term from the word bank to help Zara prepare her sketch. Then, use the questions to think like an artist.

Word bank: Composition · Texture · Highlight · Shadow · Still Life

1. 1. Zara wants to show how the light hits an apple, making it look shiny. Which term describes the brightest part of an object? (1 mark)

2. 2. When Zara draws the rough surface of an orange compared to a smooth glass bowl, which artistic element is she focusing on? (1 mark)

3. 3. Explain why it is important to arrange objects carefully on a table before you start drawing. (2 marks)

4. 4. If you were drawing a bowl of fruit, why would you need to include dark areas on the side opposite the light source? (2 marks)

5. 5. A still life must be made of inanimate objects. Give two examples of items you would include and one item you definitely would NOT include. (2 marks)

Draw: Zara has placed a tall glass vase, a round apple, and a folded piece of patterned fabric on a table. Using your pencil, draw these items from Zara's perspective. Remember to show where the light is coming from by adding shadows to one side of the objects.



Extension challenge: Find three small objects at home (like a toy, a piece of fruit, and a mug). Arrange them on a table and try to draw them using 'cross-hatching' to create light and dark areas. How does the mood of your drawing change if you move the lamp to a different side?