

Still Life Masterpieces with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the elements of a still life composition and apply techniques to draw inanimate objects accurately.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of art techniques to answer. Remember to use the vocabulary from the word bank to help explain your artistic choices.

Zara the zebra is arranging a selection of fruit and flowers to paint. She is thinking about how to place her items to create a balanced image. She wants to make sure the viewer can see the shape and light on each object clearly.

Word bank: composition · perspective · proportion · highlight · shadow · texture · overlap

1. Zara decides to place a large vase slightly in front of a bowl of apples so that part of the bowl is hidden. What is this artistic technique called, and why does it help create depth in a drawing? (2 marks)

2. When drawing a piece of fruit, how can you use light and dark shading to show that the object is round rather than flat? (2 marks)

3. If a red apple costs £1.20 and a yellow pear costs 80p, Zara wants to arrange them in her still life. If she draws three apples and two pears, what is the total cost of the fruit she is using? (2 marks)

4. Define the word 'composition' in your own words and explain why it is important when setting up a still life. (2 marks)

5. Why might an artist choose to include objects with different textures, such as a smooth glass bottle and a bumpy orange, in the same still life? (2 marks)

Draw: Find three objects at home or in the classroom with different shapes and sizes. Arrange them on a table so that they overlap slightly. Draw your still life, focusing on where the light source is coming from to create realistic shadows.



Extension challenge: Try drawing your arrangement again, but change your viewpoint. How does moving to the side or looking from above change the composition and the way the objects overlap?