

Zara's Sketchbook Study: Mastering Pencil Techniques

Learning objective: To develop sketching skills by experimenting with line, tone, and texture to represent 3D forms.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to observation sketching. Find an object in your classroom or at home and use this sheet to record your artistic process. Focus on how light hits your object and the different marks you can make with your pencil.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Tone · Gradient · Outline · Texture · Pressure

1. Subject Observation: Describe the object you have chosen to sketch. What are its main shapes and what do you notice about its surface? (2 marks)

2. Technique Trial: Which two pencil techniques (e.g. hatching or stippling) will you use to create shadow? Explain why these suit your object. (3 marks)

3. Light Source Analysis: Where is the light coming from? Describe where the darkest shadows and the brightest highlights will be placed on your sketch. (2 marks)

4. Self-Reflection: Look at your final sketch. Which part of your drawing shows the best use of tone? How did you change your pencil pressure to achieve this? (3 marks)

5. Artistic Goal: If you were to draw this object again, what is one thing you would change or improve to make it look more realistic? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try a 'blind contour' drawing of your object: look only at the object and not at your paper while you draw the outline. Compare this to your first sketch!