

Zara's Still Life Art Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the techniques and composition used in still life art, including the study of inanimate objects, light, and perspective.

Help Zara the zebra organise her studio! Read each question carefully and select the best answer to show your knowledge of still life painting.

Answer Key: 1. A (Inanimate objects), 2. True, 3. False (Artists can choose their own), 4. B (Highlight), 5. C (Composition), 6. True, 7. Perspective, 8. B (Smooth vs rough), 9. True, 10. False (Still life is about observing real objects).

Word bank: Composition · Inanimate · Perspective · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Background

1. 1. What is the main subject of a still life painting? A) Inanimate objects* B) Fast-moving animals C) Imaginary monsters D) People running (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Artists often arrange items in a specific way to make their painting more interesting. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: You can only paint fruit in a still life. (1 mark)

4. 4. What do we call the brightest spot on an object where the light hits it? A) A shadow B) A highlight* C) A reflection D) An outline (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the term for how objects are arranged on the canvas? A) Sketching B) Painting C) Composition* D) Colouring (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Using a dark shadow helps an object look three-dimensional. (1 mark)

7. 7. What technique do artists use to make objects look further away or closer on a flat piece of paper? (1-word answer) (1 mark)

8. 8. Why might an artist use different brush strokes? A) To make it messy B) To show different textures* C) To use up paint D) Because they are bored (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: The background is important because it stops the objects from looking like they are floating in space. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Still life artists always use photographs instead of looking at real objects. (1 mark)

Draw: Zara has set up a bowl of fruit, a tall vase, and a folded cloth on a table. Using your pencil, draw these items focusing on where the light hits the fruit to create a highlight and where the shadow falls on the table.



Extension challenge: Find three objects at home that are different shapes (like a mug, a book, and an apple). Arrange them in a group and sketch them from one side. How does the arrangement change if you look at them from directly above?