

Zara's Sketching Studio: Mastering Tone and Texture

Learning objective: To understand how to use different pencil pressures and mark-making techniques to create tone and texture in a sketch.

Zara the Zebra is preparing her sketchbook for an art exhibition. She wants to show how different pencil strokes create depth. Look at the techniques listed in the word bank and match them to the descriptions of how they are created. Then, practice these techniques in the boxes provided.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Blending · Pressure

1. 1. Which technique uses a series of tiny dots placed close together to create darker areas? Explain why this creates a texture. (2 marks)

2. 2. How does using light pressure compare to using heavy pressure when sketching an apple? (2 marks)

3. 3. Explain the difference between 'Hatching' and 'Cross-hatching'. (2 marks)

4. 4. If you wanted to show that a surface is smooth and shiny, like a metal bowl, which technique would you use and why? (2 marks)

5. 5. Why is 'Blending' an important skill for an artist sketching a portrait? (2 marks)

Draw: In the spaces below, create a 'Tone Chart'. Use a HB pencil to show the transition from the lightest possible mark to the darkest possible mark. Below that, draw a small sphere and use 'Cross-hatching' to show where the shadow falls on one side.



Extension challenge: Find a piece of fruit or a household object. Use your sketching skills to create a still-life drawing, focusing specifically on where the light hits the object and where the darkest shadows are located.