

Mastering the Art of Sketching with Zara

Learning objective: To develop sketching techniques by exploring line weight, shading, and observational skills.

Read each question carefully and use your pencil to answer. Remember to use light, feathery lines for your initial sketches before adding detail.

Zara the zebra loves to observe the world through patterns and lines. Whether she is sketching the rugged bark of an oak tree or the soft petals of a wildflower, Zara always starts with light, faint lines to map out her shapes. She then uses different levels of pressure to create shadows and depth, making her drawings look three-dimensional.

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

1. Why is it important to use light pressure when you first start a sketch? (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between hatching and cross-hatching. How do these techniques help create tone in a drawing? (2 marks)

3. If you were sketching a smooth pebble, would you use long, jagged lines or short, soft, blending strokes? Explain why. (2 marks)

4. Look at an object in the room. Identify two different textures you can see. How would you use your pencil to show those textures on paper? (2 marks)

5. Zara decides to buy a new set of sketching pencils for £4.50. If she pays with a £10 note, how much change should she receive? (1 mark)

Draw: Find a piece of fruit or a vegetable. Spend five minutes sketching it. Focus on where the light hits the object and use shading to show the darkest parts (the shadows) and the lightest parts (the highlights).



Extension challenge: Try to sketch the same object again, but this time, turn it upside down before you start. How does this change the way you look at the shapes and lines?