

Mastering Perspective with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of perspective to create the illusion of depth in two-dimensional artwork.

Read each flashcard to learn about the techniques artists use to make flat surfaces look three-dimensional. Use these concepts to help Zara the Zebra add depth to her next landscape painting.

Horizon Line

An imaginary horizontal line across the picture that represents the viewer's eye level and where the sky meets the land or sea.

Vanishing Point

The single point on the horizon line where all parallel lines appear to meet and disappear into the distance.

Foreground

The part of an artwork that appears closest to the viewer, usually containing larger, more detailed objects.

Background

The area of the artwork that appears furthest away, often showing the sky or distant mountains.

Linear Perspective

A drawing method used to create the illusion of depth by using straight lines that converge at a vanishing point.

Scale in Perspective

The technique of drawing objects smaller as they get further away to create the illusion of distance.

Overlapping

Placing one object in front of another to show that one is closer to the viewer than the other.

How does Zara use the Horizon Line to start her drawing?

She draws it first to establish exactly where the viewer's eye level is placed on the page.

Why do objects look smaller near the Vanishing Point?

Because of linear perspective, which mimics how our eyes see objects shrinking as they move further away from us.

If you want to make a tree look close in your drawing, should it be in the foreground or background?

It should be in the foreground.

What is the primary difference between the foreground and the background?

The foreground is closer and more detailed, while the background is further away and usually less detailed.

If a bird is flying behind a cloud, which technique is being used?

Overlapping.