

Mastering Perspective: Creating Depth in Art

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of one-point perspective to create the illusion of depth on a 2D surface.

Read each question carefully and apply your knowledge of artistic techniques. Use a ruler for all perspective lines to ensure accuracy.

Perspective is a technique used by artists to create the illusion of three-dimensional space on a flat, two-dimensional surface. By using a horizon line and a vanishing point, objects appear to shrink and move closer together as they get further away from the viewer, mimicking how our eyes see the real world.

Word bank: Vanishing point · Horizon line · Orthogonal lines · Foreground · Background · Recede

1. Define the term 'vanishing point' and explain why it is essential when drawing a scene in one-point perspective. (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between the 'foreground' and the 'background' in a landscape drawing. How does the size of an object change as it moves from the foreground to the background? (2 marks)

3. Zara the Zebra is drawing a long path through a forest. If she draws the path lines meeting at a single point on the horizon, what are those diagonal lines called? (1 mark)

4. Why do objects that are further away in a picture often appear to have less detail and lighter colour compared to objects in the foreground? (2 marks)

5. If you were drawing a row of identical trees lining a street, describe how you would use perspective to show they are getting further away. (2 marks)

Draw: Using a ruler, draw a simple horizon line across the middle of your page. Place one vanishing point in the centre. Now, draw three rectangles of different sizes to represent buildings. Connect the corners of your buildings to the vanishing point using light pencil lines to show their depth.



Extension challenge: Research 'atmospheric perspective'. Write a short paragraph explaining how artists use colour intensity to show that mountains in the far distance look pale blue or grey compared to the green trees near the viewer.