

Year 4 Art Assessment: The Art of Sketching

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of sketching techniques, tone, texture, and observation.

Read each question carefully. Use a sharp pencil for your sketches and clear, descriptive language for your written answers. Zara the zebra is looking forward to seeing your artistic progress!

Sketching is the foundation of all great art. By using different pressures on your pencil, you can create a range of light and dark areas known as tone. Artists use techniques like hatching and stippling to create texture, which helps the viewer understand if a surface is rough like tree bark or smooth like a pebble. Close observation allows an artist to capture the true form of an object before adding detail.

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

1. Explain the difference between 'hatching' and 'cross-hatching'. Why might an artist choose to use cross-hatching in a sketch? (2 marks)

2. How does varying the pressure of your pencil change the 'tone' of your drawing? Describe the effect of using very light pressure versus heavy pressure. (2 marks)

3. Zara is sketching a piece of bark. Which technique—stippling or hatching—would better represent the rough texture of the bark? Justify your choice. (3 marks)

4. What is the importance of 'close observation' before you start adding fine details to a sketch? (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast a sketch made with a hard pencil (H) versus a soft pencil (B). What might happen to the quality of your shading if you only used a hard pencil? (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are sketching an apple. Explain the step-by-step process you would use to make the apple look three-dimensional on a flat piece of paper. (3 marks)

7. Extended Response: 'Sketching is not just about drawing what you see, but about interpreting how light interacts with an object.' Discuss this statement. Use your knowledge of tone, shadow, and highlights to support your answer. (5 marks)

8. If you were asked to sketch a complex object like a bicycle, how would you break down the shapes to ensure your proportions are accurate? (5 marks)

Draw: In the box below, sketch a piece of fruit sitting on a table. You must demonstrate at least two different techniques (e.g., hatching and stippling) to show light, shadow, and the texture of the fruit's skin. (Total: /25)



Extension challenge: Design a 'Texture Challenge' for a classmate. Choose three different natural objects (such as a leaf, a stone, and a feather) and write a short paragraph explaining which sketching techniques you would use to capture their unique textures and why.