

Zara's Still Life Masterpiece

Learning objective: To explore the principles of Still Life art by observing composition, light, and texture through the creative lens of Zara the Zebra.

Follow the steps below to create your own Still Life arrangement. Focus on how light hits the objects and the different patterns you can see.

Draw: Create a Still Life drawing featuring three objects: one natural item (e.g., a piece of fruit or a leaf), one man-made item (e.g., a mug or a pair of glasses), and one fabric item (e.g., a draped cloth). Arrange them on a table so they overlap. Use cross-hatching or blending techniques to show highlights on the curved surfaces and deep shadows where the objects meet the table. Focus on filling the page to create a strong composition.



Label words: Foreground · Background · Composition · Texture · Highlight · Shadow · Perspective · Contrast

Steps:

1. Explain why it is important to choose objects with different textures for a Still Life drawing. How does this improve the final image?
2. Step 1: Sketch the outline of your chosen objects. Ensure you overlap them slightly to create depth. Label your primary focal point.
3. Step 2: Identify where the light source is coming from. Shade the areas furthest from the light to create a

dark shadow. What happens to the shape if the light source moves?

4. Compare and contrast the appearance of a shiny object (like a metal spoon) versus a matte object (like an apple) in your drawing. How do you show these differences using a pencil?

5. Justify your choice of background for your drawing. Why did you choose a plain or patterned background to complement your objects?

6. What might happen if you viewed your Still Life arrangement from a different angle, such as from directly above or from the floor level?