

Zara's Landscape Layers: Exploring Depth and Perspective

Learning objective: To understand how to use foreground, mid-ground, and background to create the illusion of depth in a landscape painting.

Use your knowledge of artistic composition to answer the following questions. Refer to the word bank to help you describe your techniques.

Word bank: foreground · mid-ground · background · horizon line · perspective · overlap · diminishing size · vibrant

1. Zara is painting a mountain range. She wants the trees in the front to look closer than the mountains in the distance. Explain why 'diminishing size' helps the viewer understand the scale of the landscape. (2 marks)

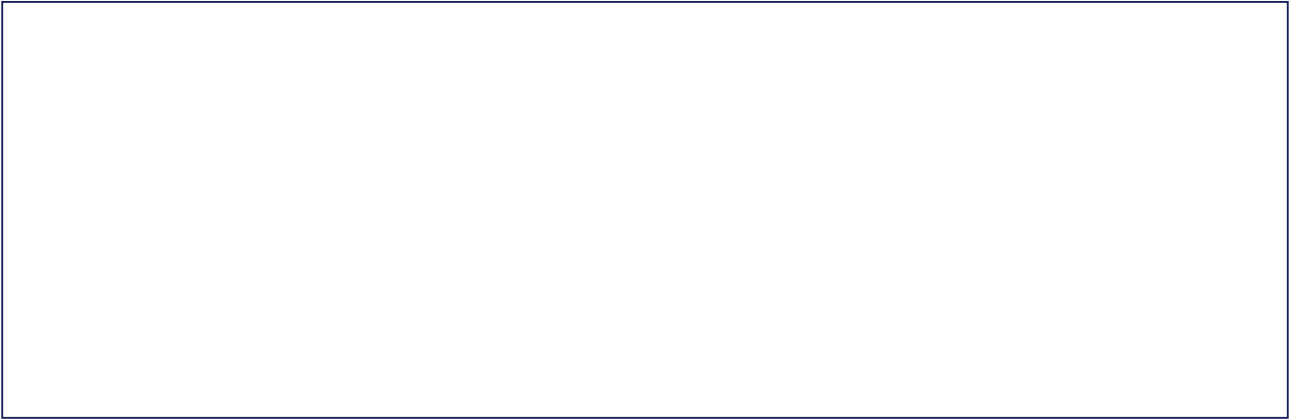
2. Define the 'horizon line' and explain its function in a landscape drawing. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the level of detail you would expect to see in the foreground versus the background of a professional landscape painting. (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were painting a meadow, why might you choose to overlap objects like flowers or bushes to create a sense of space? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the overall 'depth' of a landscape if every object in the picture was drawn exactly the same size and with the same amount of detail? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, divide your sketchbook page into three horizontal sections. Draw a landscape that features a large, detailed object in the foreground, smaller objects in the mid-ground, and a faint horizon line in the background. Use the technique of overlapping to show that one object is in front of another.



Extension challenge: Research how artists use 'atmospheric perspective' (changing colours to look cooler or paler in the distance) to make a painting look realistic. Write a short paragraph explaining how you could apply this to your own landscape artwork to improve its sense of scale.