Mastering Perspective with Zara the Zebra

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of perspective. Zara the Zebra has been busy painting landscapes and needs your help to identify these key artistic terms.

What is the 'Horizon Line' in a drawing?

The horizontal line across the page that represents where the sky meets the ground or water.

Define 'Vanishing Point'.

The specific spot on the horizon line where parallel lines appear to converge and disappear.

What is 'Linear Perspective'?

A mathematical system used by artists to create the illusion of depth and distance on a flat, two-dimensional surface.

How does 'Scale' affect our perception of depth?

Objects that are closer appear larger, while objects further away appear smaller, helping to show distance.

What is the 'Foreground'?

The part of a scene or picture that is nearest to and in front of the viewer.

Explain the term 'Convergence' in art.

The process where parallel lines appear to meet or come together at a single point in the distance.

What is the purpose of 'Overlapping' in a composition?

Placing one object in front of another to show that it is closer to the viewer, which creates a sense of depth.

What is the 'Background'?

The part of the scene that seems furthest away from the viewer, often containing the horizon line.

Explain why artists use a 'Vanishing Point' when drawing city streets.

It creates a realistic sense of depth by making parallel lines, like the edges of buildings, appear to recede into the distance.

Compare and contrast the Foreground and the Background.

The foreground contains objects closest to the viewer and uses larger scale and more detail, while the background contains the furthest objects which appear smaller and less detailed.

Justify why an artist might choose to place a large tree in the foreground of a painting.

To provide a sense of scale and to immediately draw the viewer’s eye into the depth of the scene.

What might happen if you drew all objects in a landscape the same size?

The image would look flat and lack depth, making it difficult for the viewer to tell which objects are near and which are far away.