

Zara's Perspective Masterclass

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of linear perspective, including the horizon line and vanishing point, to create an illusion of depth.

Help Zara the zebra bring her sketches to life! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of perspective to answer. Remember, Zara sees patterns and depth everywhere she looks.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.A, 5.Vanishing point, 6.B, 7.Foreground, 8.True, 9.Horizon line, 10.D

Word bank: Vanishing point · Horizon line · Foreground · Background · Parallel · Depth · Convergence

1. 1. Zara is drawing a long road. What is the imaginary line where the earth meets the sky called? A) The base line B) The depth line C) The horizon line* D) The pattern line (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Objects appear smaller when they are closer to the vanishing point. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: In a one-point perspective drawing, lines that go back into the distance should remain perfectly parallel to each other. (1 mark)

4. 4. What do we call the point on the horizon where all receding lines appear to meet? A) Vanishing point* B) Starting point C) Central dot D) Focal focus (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the specific term for the effect of lines 'meeting' or getting closer together as they move toward the distance? (One word) (1 mark)

6. 6. Which part of the drawing is usually at the bottom of the page and features the largest objects? A) Background B) Foreground* C) Horizon D) Middle ground (1 mark)

7. 7. If you are drawing a forest, where would you place the smallest, most distant trees? (One word) (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Perspective helps an artist create the illusion of three-dimensional space on a flat two-dimensional surface. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which horizontal line acts as the viewer's eye level in a landscape drawing? (Two words) (1 mark)

10. 10. Why do artists use perspective? A) To make colours brighter B) To use less paper C) To hide mistakes D) To create the illusion of depth* (1 mark)

Draw: Using a ruler, draw a horizon line across the middle of your page. Place one vanishing point in the centre. Draw five rectangles of different sizes around the page and connect their corners to the vanishing point to create 3D blocks.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why objects in the foreground must be drawn with more detail than objects in the background. 2. Compare and contrast how a bird in the sky and a mouse on the ground would perceive the horizon line. 3. Justify why architects use perspective drawings when designing new houses for clients. 4. What might happen to the 'depth' of your drawing if you moved the vanishing point to the far left corner of the page? 5. If you were drawing a railway track, why must the sleepers (the wooden planks) get closer together as they approach the horizon? 6. Design a scene that uses 'two-point perspective' and describe how it differs from the one-point perspective we have explored today.