

Zara's Sketching Masterclass

Learning objective: To develop an understanding of sketching techniques, including line, tone, texture, and observation.

Join Zara the zebra on an artistic journey! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of sketching to answer them. Look closely at the world around you, just like Zara does.

Answer Key: 1. A (Sketching); 2. True; 3. B (To show light and shadow); 4. False; 5. Blending; 6. A (Cross-hatching); 7. False; 8. Pressure; 9. Observation; 10. True.

Word bank: Hatching · Blending · Cross-hatching · Observation · Shading · Texture · Pressure · Sketching · Tone · Detail

1. 1. What is the name for a quick, rough drawing used to capture an idea? A) Sketching* B) Painting C) Sculpting D) Printing (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: You should always press down as hard as you can with your pencil when starting a sketch. (1 mark)

3. 3. Why do artists use shading? A) To make the paper messy B) To show light and shadow* C) To hide mistakes D) To use up the pencil (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: Sketching is only for professional artists and not for beginners. (1 mark)

5. 5. What technique involves rubbing pencil marks with a finger or stump to create smooth transitions between light and dark? (1 word) (1 mark)

6. 6. Which technique uses overlapping sets of parallel lines to create darker areas? A) Cross-hatching* B) Dotting C) Erasing D) Squiggling (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Texture is how an object looks like it might feel if you touched it. (1 mark)

8. 8. What do you change to make your pencil marks lighter or darker? (1 word) (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the most important skill for an artist to use when looking at a real-life object? (1 word) (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Using different types of lines can help show the mood of a drawing. (1 mark)

Draw: Find a piece of fruit or a household object. Spend five minutes sketching it using only light lines. Focus on the 'outline' first, then add 'shading' to show where the light hits the object.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use cross-hatching instead of simple blending. 2. Compare and contrast a 'rough sketch' with a 'finished drawing'. 3. Justify why observation is more important than imagination when sketching from life. 4. What might happen to the quality of your sketch if you did not vary the pressure of your pencil? 5. If you were sketching a fluffy animal, which technique would you use to show the texture of its fur? Justify your choice. 6. How does the 'tone' of a drawing change the way the viewer feels about the subject?