

Mastering the Art of Sketching with Zara

Learning objective: To understand and apply sketching techniques, including line weight, shading, and observational drawing skills.

Read the questions carefully and use your pencil to experiment with different techniques. Zara the zebra wants you to look closely at shapes and textures before you start drawing.

Sketching is not just about drawing what you see; it is about observing how light, shadow, and texture interact. By varying the pressure of your pencil, you can create different line weights to show depth. Using patterns like hatching or stippling helps to build up tone, making your drawings look three-dimensional rather than flat.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Line weight · Tone · Perspective · Observational

1. Zara is drawing a stone. She wants to show that one side is in the shade. Describe one technique she could use to add depth to her sketch. (2 marks)

2. What is the difference between a light, feathery line and a bold, heavy line? How does this change the look of a sketch? (2 marks)

3. Explain why 'observational drawing' requires you to look at your subject more than your paper. (2 marks)

4. If you are sketching a fluffy cloud, would you use long, straight cross-hatching or soft, light circular marks? Explain why. (2 marks)

5. Define 'stippling' in your own words and explain how it can be used to create dark or light areas in a drawing. (2 marks)

Draw: Find a piece of fruit or a small household object. Place it on your desk and spend five minutes sketching it. Focus on using different line weights for the outline and at least two types of shading (e.g., hatching or stippling) to show where the light hits the object.



Extension challenge: Try drawing the same object again, but this time, set a timer for only 60 seconds. How does your sketch change when you have to work quickly compared to when you have more time?