

Zara's Still Life Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify key techniques and elements of still life art, including composition, lighting, and focal points.

Read each question carefully and select the best answer or provide the short response required. Remember what Zara the zebra taught us: look for the patterns and shapes in the objects around you!

Answer Key: 1. A (Inanimate objects), 2. True, 3. False (It is the area of interest), 4. Shadow, 5. Texture, 6. C (To show where light hits), 7. True, 8. Composition, 9. False (It is a 2D representation), 10. Perspective.

Word bank: Composition · Focal point · Perspective · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Foreground · Background

1. 1. What is a 'still life' painting primarily of? A) Moving animals * B) Inanimate objects C) Portraits of people D) Landscapes (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Artists often arrange objects carefully to make the picture look balanced. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: The 'focal point' is always the object furthest away in the background. (1 mark)

4. 4. What do artists add to a drawing to make an object look solid and three-dimensional? (1 word) (1 mark)

5. 5. What word describes how a surface looks or feels, like the roughness of an orange peel or the smoothness of a glass? (1 word) (1 mark)

6. 6. Why does an artist use a 'highlight' on a piece of fruit? A) To make it look dirty B) To show it is rotten C) To show where the light hits it * D) To change the colour (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Lighting is important because it creates depth in an artwork. (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the word for how you arrange the objects within the frame of your paper? (1 word) (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Still life art is always done by taking a photograph. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which technique helps an artist show that some objects are closer than others? (1 word) (1 mark)

Draw: Zara the zebra wants you to set up a mini still life! Find three items in your classroom or home (like an apple, a pencil case, and a mug). Arrange them on a table, notice where the light comes from, and sketch them using shading to show the light and dark parts.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an artist at a market. You have £5.00 to spend on props for a still life. If an apple costs 40p, a wooden bowl costs £2.50, and a silk scarf costs £1.80, can you afford all three? How much change would you have?