

Zara's Guide to Perspective: The Art of Depth

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of linear perspective, including the horizon line, vanishing point, and the use of size and placement to create the illusion of depth in a 2D drawing.

Use your knowledge of artistic perspective to complete the following exercises. Remember: objects appear smaller and higher up on the page as they move towards the vanishing point.

Word bank: Vanishing point · Horizon line · Foreground · Background · Converging lines · Proportion

1. Zara is sketching a long, straight road that disappears into the distance. Define what the 'vanishing point' is and explain why all the lines of the road must eventually meet there. (2 marks)

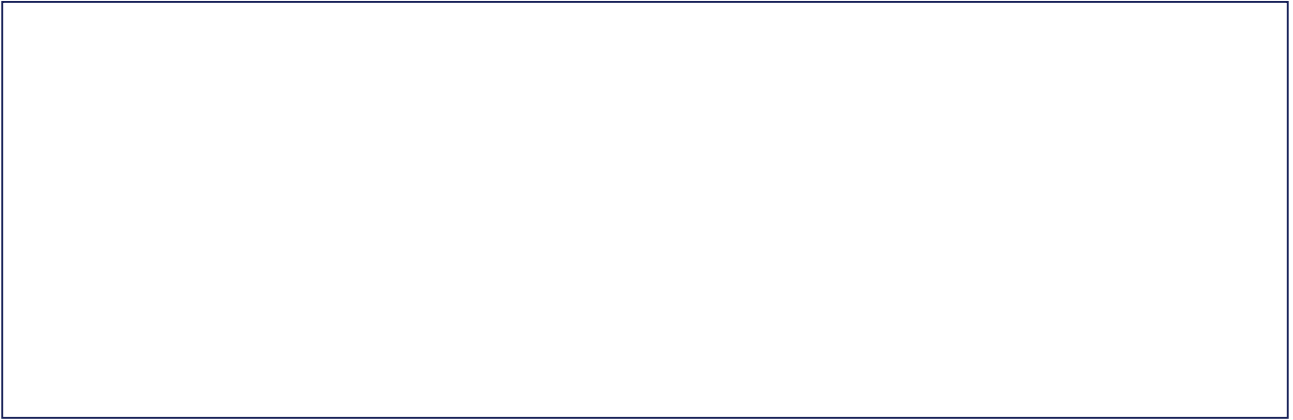
2. Compare and contrast the size of an object in the foreground versus the same object in the background. How does changing the size affect the viewer's perception of distance? (2 marks)

3. If you were drawing a row of identical trees lining a path, justify why each subsequent tree must be drawn smaller and slightly higher on the page than the one before it. (2 marks)

4. Explain why the horizon line is a vital reference point for an artist. Where should you place it if you want to show a bird's-eye view of a landscape? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the sense of depth in your drawing if you drew all the objects the exact same size, regardless of where they are placed on your paper? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene looking down a long, straight street. Start by drawing a horizontal line across the middle of your page. Mark a single vanishing point on that line. Use a ruler to draw lines coming from the vanishing point to create the edges of the pavement and the tops of buildings. Draw at least three buildings of different heights along these lines.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are standing in a vast, flat desert. Write a short paragraph describing how the perspective would change if you lay down on the ground to draw the scene compared to standing up. Then, create a second drawing using this new 'worm's-eye view' perspective.