

Zara's Sketchbook Study: Mastering Texture and Form

Learning objective: To develop sketching techniques by observing light, shadow, and texture in the natural world.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to sketching! Choose an object from nature or your classroom. Use your pencil to experiment with different pressures and mark-making styles to capture what you see. Fill in the sections below to document your artistic process.

Word bank: hatching · cross-hatching · stippling · blending · tonal range · texture · perspective · contour

1. Subject Observation: Describe the object you have chosen. What is its shape and what words would you use to describe its texture (e.g. rough, smooth, jagged)? (2 marks)

2. Lighting Analysis: Where is the light source coming from? Describe where you can see the darkest shadows and the brightest highlights on your object. (2 marks)

3. Technique Selection: Which sketching techniques will you use to show the texture? Explain why you chose these specific marks for this object. (3 marks)

4. Reflective Review: Now that your sketch is complete, what was the most challenging part of capturing the object's form? How did you solve this problem? (3 marks)

5. Artist's Goal: If you were to sketch this object again, what is one thing you would change or improve to make your drawing look more realistic? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try creating a 'tonal strip' at the bottom of your page. Start with the lightest pencil pressure possible and gradually increase the pressure until you reach the darkest black your pencil can make. Use this to help you shade your main sketch!