

Year 4 Art Assessment: The Art of Still Life

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of composition, tone, and observation in still life drawing.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly. Show your artistic skills in the final section.

Zara the zebra is arranging a selection of fruit on a wooden table. She places a shiny red apple in the foreground, slightly overlapping a textured green pear. She makes sure the light source is coming from the left, which creates a soft shadow on the right side of the fruit. Zara is careful to observe the exact shape and size of each object before she begins her sketch.

Word bank: composition · background · foreground · tone · texture · observation · perspective · proportion · highlight · shadow

1. Based on Zara's arrangement, explain why placing an object in the foreground is important for the composition of a still life piece. (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of adding 'tone' to a still life drawing? Describe how you would show a highlight on a piece of fruit. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the appearance of a shiny apple versus a rough, textured pear. How would your pencil technique change to show these different textures? (4 marks)

4. If you were to move the light source from the left side of the table to directly above the objects, what might happen to the shadows? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

5. Justify why an artist must practise careful observation before they begin to draw. How does this improve the final quality of the artwork? (4 marks)

6. Extended Response: Imagine you are curating an exhibition of still life work. Write a paragraph (approx. 5 sentences) explaining the importance of choosing objects that vary in size, shape, and height to create a balanced composition. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space provided, draw a still life composition featuring three objects: a piece of fruit, a ceramic mug, and a small book. Pay close attention to the light source, the placement of shadows, and the overlapping of objects to create a sense of depth.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Zara wants to sell her art for £15.00 each to raise money for new paints. If she sells 4 paintings, how much money will she have? Furthermore, if she uses £12.50 to buy new brushes, calculate her remaining profit. Explain why artists sometimes choose to use a monochromatic colour scheme in their still life work rather than full colour.