

Zara's Sketching Studio: Mastering Light and Shadow

Learning objective: To understand and apply techniques of shading, cross-hatching, and blending to create the illusion of three-dimensional form in a pencil sketch.

Zara the zebra loves finding patterns in nature. Use the word bank to label the different sketching techniques Zara uses to create texture and depth in her artwork. Once you have labelled them, apply these techniques to the drawing prompt below.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Blending · Contour lines · Highlight · Core shadow

1. 1. Which technique uses a series of closely spaced dots to create tone or texture? (1 mark)

2. 2. Explain why a 'highlight' is important when drawing a solid object like an apple. (2 marks)

3. 3. What is the difference between 'hatching' and 'cross-hatching'? (3 marks)

4. 4. If you want to make a smooth transition between a dark shadow and a light area, which technique should you use? (1 mark)

5. 5. Why do artists use 'contour lines' when sketching the outline of an object? (2 marks)

Draw: Zara has placed a shiny, round pebble on a table. Using your pencil, sketch the pebble. Apply 'hatching' on the side furthest from the light source and use 'blending' to create a soft shadow underneath the pebble on the table surface.



Extension challenge: Find an object in your classroom or at home. Sketch it twice: once using only 'stippling' (dots) for the shadows, and once using 'cross-hatching' (overlapping lines). Compare which one looks more realistic to you and write a sentence explaining why.