

Zara's Sketching Studio

Learning objective: To explore the technique of sketching by using light pressure and observational skills to capture shapes and patterns.

Join Zara the Zebra in her art studio! Today we are learning how to use a pencil to make gentle marks. Remember, sketches don't have to be perfect; they are a way to practice looking closely at the world.

Zara the Zebra loves to look for patterns. When she sketches, she holds her pencil softly so she can make light, feathery lines. If she makes a mistake, she can simply draw over it or start again because her first lines were soft and easy to change. By looking closely at an object, she can see the simple shapes that make it up, like circles, squares, and triangles.

Word bank: pencil · light · sketch · shape · line · observe · detail

1. Zara holds her pencil softly to make light lines. Why is it helpful to draw with light lines first? (2 marks)

2. Look at an apple or a ball. What is the main shape you can see? (1 mark)

3. If you want to draw a tree, which part would you draw first: the tiny leaves or the big shape of the trunk? (1 mark)

4. How do we hold our pencil differently when we want to make a light mark compared to a dark mark? (2 marks)

5. Zara likes to 'observe' before she draws. What does it mean to observe an object? (1 mark)

Draw: Find your favourite piece of fruit. Spend one minute just looking at it. Now, use your pencil to sketch the shape of the fruit on your paper using very light, gentle lines.



Extension challenge: Try sketching your fruit again, but this time, look for one small detail, like a leaf or a spot, and add it to your sketch.