

Zara's Perspective Masterclass: The Art of Depth

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of one-point perspective to create the illusion of depth and distance in a 2D artwork.

Zara the zebra has noticed that things look different depending on where you stand! To master perspective, you must use a 'vanishing point'. Follow these steps to complete your technical drawing: 1. Draw a light horizontal line across your page (the horizon line). 2. Mark a single dot in the centre (the vanishing point). 3. Draw a square or rectangle below the line. 4. Use a ruler to draw faint 'orthogonal' lines from the corners of your shape back to the vanishing point. 5. Cut your lines to create a 3D box.

Word bank: Vanishing point · Horizon line · Orthogonal lines · Foreground · Background · Parallel · Depth · Illusion

1. Explain why the 'horizon line' is essential when drawing a landscape in perspective. How does it represent the viewer's eye level? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast how an object in the 'foreground' looks compared to an object in the 'background'. Use your knowledge of scale. (2 marks)

3. If Zara were standing on a long, straight railway track, what would happen to the parallel lines of the tracks as they get closer to the horizon? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if you moved your vanishing point from the centre of the paper to the far left corner? Describe the effect on the viewer's perspective. (2 marks)

5. Identify which lines in your drawing are 'orthogonal'. Why do these lines never actually touch the objects behind the shape? (2 marks)

6. Critique your own work: If your box looks distorted, which part of your technique should you re-check? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Using a ruler and pencil, create a scene of a 'City of Cubes'. Include at least three buildings of different heights using one-point perspective, ensuring all your orthogonal lines meet at the same vanishing point on the horizon line.



Extension challenge: Design a 'Perspective Illusion' drawing where you incorporate the word 'ART' into your 3D cube structures. Use shading (chiaroscuro) on the side faces of your letters to make them appear solid, ensuring the light source is consistent across the entire composition.