

# Zara's Perspective Masterclass: Exploring Depth in Art

*Learning objective: To understand and apply the techniques of one-point perspective to create the illusion of depth on a two-dimensional surface.*

Follow Zara the zebra's guide to mastering perspective. Use your ruler to create vanishing points and horizon lines. When answering the questions, think like an artist who is trying to trick the viewer's eye into seeing a 3D space. Use your sketchpad to experiment with your designs before completing the sections below.

*Word bank: Vanishing point · Horizon line · Orthogonal lines · Foreground · Background · Diminishing scale · Convergence · Three-dimensional*

**1. Defining the Horizon: Explain how the placement of a horizon line changes the viewer's perspective of a scene. What happens if you place it very low or very high on your page? (3 marks)**

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**2. The Vanishing Point: Justify why all 'orthogonal' lines must meet at a single vanishing point in one-point perspective. What would happen to the illusion of depth if these lines did not converge? (4 marks)**

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**3. Scale and Distance: Compare and contrast how an object in the foreground should be drawn compared to the same object in the background. Why does this create the illusion of distance? (3 marks)**

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**4. Compositional Planning: Describe how you would arrange a city street scene to make the buildings look like they are receding into the distance. Where would you place your vanishing point? (3 marks)**

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**5. Critical Analysis:** If you were drawing a giant mountain range, how would you use atmospheric perspective—the way things look lighter and bluer in the distance—to improve your drawing? (4 marks)

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**6. Creative Synthesis:** If you wanted to draw a view from inside a long tunnel, explain how you would use perspective lines to guide the viewer's eye toward the exit. (5 marks)

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*Extension challenge: Challenge: Imagine you are looking at a glass box. Draw a diagram showing how the lines of the box would converge towards a vanishing point. Then, write a short paragraph justifying why artists use these mathematical rules to represent the world, and discuss what might happen to our perception of art if these 'rules' were ignored.*