

Zara's Sketching Studio: A Masterclass in Observation

Learning objective: To develop an understanding of sketching techniques, including line weight, shading, and observational skills.

Grab your favourite graphite pencil and a sketchbook. Join Zara the zebra as she explores patterns and textures. Answer these 10 questions to prove you are a sketching superstar!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Hatching, 4.B, 5.True, 6.Stippling, 7.D, 8.False, 9.Tone, 10.Composition.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Tone · Smudging · Perspective · Outline · Composition

1. 1. Which pencil grade is best for creating soft, dark shadows? A) 2H B) HB C) 4B* D) H (1 mark)
2. 2. True or False: Sketching should always be done with a single, continuous, dark line. (1 mark)
3. 3. What is the technique of using closely spaced parallel lines to create shadow called? (1 mark)
4. 4. Which term describes the lightness or darkness of an area? A) Texture B) Tone* C) Smudge D) Pattern (1 mark)
5. 5. True or False: Artists often use 'light construction lines' before adding final details. (1 mark)
6. 6. What is the name for the technique of creating shading using only small dots? (1 mark)
7. 7. How do you create the illusion of depth in a drawing? A) Using bright colours B) Drawing everything the same size C) Using a ruler D) Using perspective* (1 mark)
8. 8. True or False: 'Cross-hatching' involves overlapping lines in only one direction. (1 mark)
9. 9. To show that an object is rounded, you should focus on capturing the _____ of the object. (1 mark)

10. 10. What is the word for the arrangement of elements within your sketchbook page? (1 mark)

Draw: Find a piece of fruit or a household object. Spend 5 minutes sketching it using only light, feathery lines, then spend another 5 minutes adding 'cross-hatching' to show where the light hits the object.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why an artist might choose a 2H pencil over a 6B pencil for architectural sketches. 2. Compare and contrast 'stippling' and 'hatching' in terms of the time taken and the visual effect produced. 3. Justify your answer: Does a sketch need to be photorealistic to be considered 'good' art? 4. What might happen to the overall mood of a drawing if you only used very thin, faint lines? 5. If you were sketching Zara the zebra, how would you use line weight to show the texture of her coat compared to the smooth surface of a glass vase? 6. Design a new 'composition' for a still life: how would you arrange three different objects to create a sense of balance and interest?