

Zara's Sketchbook Study: Mastering Tone and Texture

Learning objective: To explore and apply sketching techniques including hatching, cross-hatching, and stippling to create tone and texture.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to sketching. Use your pencil to experiment with different pressure and mark-making techniques. You will need a soft graphite pencil (2B or 4B) to complete these studies. Focus on observing how light hits your subject to create depth.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Gradient · Opacity · Contour · Highlight · Shadow · Texture · Perspective

1. Technique Analysis: Explain why an artist might choose stippling over hatching when trying to represent a soft, furry texture. (3 marks)

2. Observation Log: Select a natural object. Describe the highlights and shadows you observe. How do you plan to use pencil pressure to represent these differences? (2 marks)

3. Comparative Study: Compare and contrast the effect of cross-hatching versus smooth blending. When is each technique most effective? (3 marks)

4. Justification: Justify your choice of sketching technique for a landscape drawing. How does your chosen style help convey the distance of objects in the background? (4 marks)

5. Hypothetical Scenario: What might happen to the 'mood' of your sketch if you were to replace all your soft, blended shadows with harsh, dark cross-hatching? (3 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: Evaluate your own progress. Which area of your sketch was the most challenging to render, and what specific adjustment would you make if you were to restart? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Texture Library' on a separate sheet of paper. Create ten different squares, each showcasing a unique mark-making technique (e.g., jagged lines for bark, tiny dots for sand, or curved rhythmic lines for flowing water). Then, produce a final sketch of a complex object, such as a pinecone or a seashell, using at least four of the techniques from your library.