

Still Life Masterpieces with Zara

Learning objective: To explore composition, texture, and the use of light and shadow in a still life drawing, inspired by the principles of artistic observation.

Today, Zara the zebra is teaching us how to look closely at everyday objects. A still life is a work of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter. Follow the steps below to create your own balanced composition.

Draw: Draw a still life composition featuring a piece of fruit, a ceramic mug, and a folded piece of fabric. Focus on 'chiaroscuro' (the contrast between light and dark). Ensure the objects overlap slightly to create depth. Use cross-hatching to show the rough texture of the fabric and smooth, light pressure for the shiny surface of the fruit.



Label words: Highlight · Shadow · Composition · Texture · Perspective · Foreground · Background · Tone

Steps:

1. Step 1: Arrange three objects of different heights on a table. Why is it important to consider the 'composition' before you begin sketching?
2. Step 2: Draw the outline of your objects. Label the 'foreground' and the 'background' in your drawing.
3. Step 3: Identify where the light source is coming from. Shade the areas furthest from the light to create a 'shadow'. How does this change the appearance of your object?
4. Step 4: Add 'texture' to your drawing. If one object is made of glass and another of wool, how would your

pencil marks differ?

5. Explain why artists often choose to draw 'still life' instead of moving subjects. Justify your answer using the concept of control.

6. Compare and contrast your finished drawing with a partner's. What similarities and differences do you notice in your use of tone?