

Zara's Still Life Art Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the core components of still life composition, including focal points, light sources, and negative space.

Join Zara the zebra as she explores her studio! Read each question carefully and circle the best answer. Remember, in still life, how you arrange your objects is just as important as how you draw them.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Composition, 4.A, 5.False, 6.B, 7.Texture, 8.True, 9.C, 10.Light source.

Explanation for Q10: The light source dictates where highlights and shadows fall, creating the illusion of 3D form on a 2D surface.

Word bank: composition · focal point · negative space · highlight · texture · perspective · shadow · medium

1. What do we call the area around and between the subjects of an image? A) Foreground B) Focal point C) Negative space * D) Horizon (1 mark)

2. True or False: Still life art depicts inanimate objects, such as fruit, flowers, or household items. (True/False) (1 mark)

3. Fill in the blank: The arrangement of objects in an artwork is known as the _____. (1 mark)

4. Which element helps the viewer understand the surface quality of an object? A) Texture * B) Size C) Colour D) Price (1 mark)

5. True or False: You should always place your objects in a perfectly straight line to create an interesting composition. (True/False) (1 mark)

6. What is a 'focal point'? A) The background colour B) The main area of interest * C) The type of pencil used D) The frame (1 mark)

7. If you are drawing a rough, bumpy orange next to a smooth, shiny apple, which technique are you focusing on? (1 mark)

8. True or False: Shadows are essential for making objects look three-dimensional. (True/False) (1 mark)

9. What does a 'highlight' represent in a drawing? A) The darkest part of the object B) The outline of the object C) The brightest reflection of light * D) The shadow underneath (1 mark)

10. What determines where the shadows fall on your objects? (1 mark)

Draw: Set up a small still life using three items from your desk (e.g., a mug, a piece of fruit, and a ruler). Draw them using charcoal or pencil, paying close attention to where the light hits the objects to create highlights.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use 'negative space' to draw the viewer's eye. 2. Compare and contrast how a change in the light source would alter the mood of your still life. 3. Justify your answer: Why is it often more effective to group objects in odd numbers (like 3 or 5) rather than even numbers? 4. What might happen if an artist ignored the scale of objects in their still life? 5. If you were curating a gallery, how would you arrange lighting to enhance the textures in a still life painting? 6. Critically evaluate your own drawing: Which part of your composition creates the most depth and why?