Mastering the Portrait: Zara's Art Studio

Learning objective: To explore the proportions of the human face and understand how to capture features accurately using guidelines.

Follow Zara the Zebra's expert steps to construct a balanced portrait. Use a light pencil to sketch your guidelines first, then add detail once you are happy with the proportions.

Draw: Draw a portrait of a friend or family member. Start by sketching an oval head shape. Use a light horizontal line for the eyes and a vertical line for the nose. Ensure the eyes are spaced one eye-width apart. Once the basic shapes are correct, add details like the iris, eyelashes, and hair. Finally, use cross-hatching or blending to add shadows under the chin and the nose to make the face look three-dimensional.

Label words: Symmetry · Proportion · Jawline · Iris · Bridge of nose · Feature · Shading

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a large oval shape to represent the head. Lightly draw a vertical line down the centre and a horizontal line across the middle. Why do artists use these light guidelines?
2. Step 2: Sketch the eyes. In a realistic portrait, where should the eyes be positioned in relation to the horizontal guideline?
3. Step 3: Draw the nose. Where does the bottom of the nose usually sit compared to the ears?

4. Step 4: Use the word bank to label three parts of your drawing, such as the 'iris' or 'bridge of nose'.
5. Step 5: Explain how you would use shading to show where the light is coming from on your portrait.