Mastering the Vanishing Point

Learning objective: I can use one-point perspective to create the illusion of depth in my drawings.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to use a ruler for every line to ensure their perspective looks accurate.

In this activity, you will practise creating a 3D effect on a 2D page. A 'vanishing point' is the spot on the horizon where parallel lines seem to meet.

Worked Example: To draw a box in perspective, first draw a small dot on your horizon line. Draw a square, then draw diagonal lines from each corner of the square back to your vanishing point. Connect these lines to create the back edge of your box.

Follow the questions below to develop your technique.

Word bank: Vanishing point · Horizon line · Convergence · Depth · Parallel

1. Draw a straight horizontal line across the middle of your page. Label this the 'Horizon Line'. Place a single dot in the centre of this line. What is this dot called? (1 mark)

2. Explain why the lines that connect your shapes to the vanishing point are called 'orthogonal' or 'convergence' lines. (2 marks)

3. If you are drawing a street in London, why would the windows on the buildings look smaller the closer they are to the vanishing point? (2 marks)

4. Draw three simple squares at different distances from your vanishing point. Ensure all corners connect to the dot. How does the size of the square change as it gets closer to the dot? (2 marks)

5. Zara is drawing a view of a path through a forest. If the path is 2 metres wide at the bottom of the page, why must the lines converge as they move towards the horizon? (2 marks)

Draw: A sketch showing a one-point perspective grid with a horizon line, a central vanishing point, and three cubes of varying sizes connected to the vanishing point by diagonal lines.

Extension challenge: Challenge: Try drawing a row of five telegraph poles along a road. Remember to make the poles get shorter and the gaps between them smaller as they reach the vanishing point!

I did it! **Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

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