Mastering the Art of the Sketch

Learning objective: I can identify and apply different sketching techniques to create depth and texture in my drawings.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to use different grades of pencils to see how dark or light they can make their marks.

In this activity, you will explore how to use lines and shading to add detail to your sketches. Zara the zebra loves to observe patterns in nature, from the stripes on her coat to the veins on a leaf. Look at the techniques below and apply them to the drawing tasks.

Worked Example: To create 'Cross-hatching', draw a set of diagonal lines, then draw another set of lines crossing over them at an angle. The closer the lines are, the darker the shadow will appear.

Word bank: Cross-hatching · Stippling · Blending · Contour · Perspective

1. 1. Which technique uses small, individual dots to build up areas of tone and shadow? (1 mark)

2. 2. Sketch an oak leaf. Use 'Contour' lines to follow the shape of the leaf to show its curves and edges. (2 marks)

3. 3. If you want to show that one side of a robin is in deep shadow, why might you choose 'Cross-hatching' instead of a single light line? (2 marks)

4. 4. Draw a small cube. Use 'Blending' to create a smooth transition from a dark corner to a light face, showing where the light hits the object. (2 marks)

5. 5. Zara is drawing a garden scene. How could she use line weight (pressing harder or softer with her pencil) to show that a badger in the foreground is closer than an oak tree in the distance? (2 marks)

Draw: A detailed sketch of a woodland scene featuring a hedgehog nestled under an oak tree, using various textures for the leaves and needles.

Extension challenge: Find an object in your room with a complex texture (like a woollen jumper or a piece of fruit). Sketch it using only stippling to show the shadows and highlights.

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

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