Mastering the Art of Sketching: A Guide for Young Artists

Learning objective: I can use sketching techniques to capture form, texture, and light in my drawings.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look for shadows and highlights on real objects before they start drawing.

Key Vocabulary

Use this vocabulary mat to help you describe your sketches. A sketch is a quick, rough drawing that captures the main features of an object before you add detail.

Worked Example: If you are drawing an oak tree, you might use 'hatching' to show the rough texture of the bark.

Techniques:
- Hatching: Drawing closely spaced parallel lines to create shading.
- Cross-hatching: Layering sets of parallel lines in different directions to create darker tones.
- Stippling: Creating areas of light and dark using only small, distinct dots.
- Blending: Smudging graphite or charcoal to create a smooth transition between tones.
- Contour: Drawing the outline or edge of an object without lifting your pencil.

Perspective and Light:
- Perspective: Creating the illusion of depth on a flat surface.
- Horizon line: The horizontal line where the sky appears to meet the ground.
- Vanishing point: The point where parallel lines seem to converge in the distance.
- Highlight: The area of an object that reflects the most light.
- Core shadow: The darkest part of a shadow on an object.

Composition and Style:
- Composition: How you arrange the objects within your drawing space.
- Proportion: The size of one part of an object in relation to the whole.
- Sketch: A rapid drawing that focuses on capturing the essence of a subject.
- Texture: The perceived surface quality of an object, such as rough, smooth, or furry.
- Value: The lightness or darkness of a colour or a shade of grey.

Explain the differ…	**If you are drawing…**	**Why is it importa…**
Describe how you…	**Which term descr…**	