

Year 4 Art: Exploring Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the key concepts and techniques used in abstract art, including shape, colour, and emotion.

Read each flashcard to learn about the world of Abstract Art. Zara the Zebra has left these notes to help you see patterns and feelings in a new way!

What is Abstract Art?

Art that does not try to look exactly like real-life objects, but instead uses shapes, colours, and lines to represent ideas or feelings.

What are Geometric shapes?

Precise shapes like squares, rectangles, triangles, and circles that often have sharp edges and look mathematical.

What are Organic shapes?

Shapes that are curvy, free-flowing, and look like things found in nature, such as clouds, leaves, or puddles.

What is Composition?

The way an artist arranges the different parts of their artwork on the page to make it look balanced or exciting.

How can colour be used in Abstract Art?

Colours can be used to show specific moods or emotions, like using warm colours for happiness or cool colours for calmness.

What is Texture in art?

The way a surface looks or feels, which an artist can create by using thick paint, different brush strokes, or patterns.

What does Contrast mean?

Using very different elements side-by-side, such as light versus dark colours or rough textures versus smooth ones, to make the art stand out.

Why might an artist choose not to paint a realistic picture?

To focus on the viewer's feelings and imagination, allowing them to interpret the artwork in their own unique way.

What are Primary Colours?

Red, yellow, and blue; these are the base colours that cannot be made by mixing others together.

What is 'Expressionism' in Abstract Art?

A style of painting where the artist uses bold colours and distorted shapes to express their personal feelings or inner thoughts.

Zara the Zebra loves patterns. How can patterns be used in Abstract Art?

Patterns can create rhythm and movement across the page, leading the viewer's eye from one part of the artwork to another.

If you wanted to show 'energy' using only shapes and colours, what would you do?

You might use sharp, jagged triangles and bright, bold colours like red and orange to create a feeling of movement and excitement.