

Zara's Musical Masterpiece: Exploring Kandinsky

Learning objective: To understand Wassily Kandinsky's use of abstract shapes, colours, and the connection between music and art.

Zara the zebra has been listening to different types of music and imagining them as patterns and shapes, just like the artist Wassily Kandinsky. Read the descriptions of how different sounds might look, then complete the activity by matching the musical feeling to the correct artistic element from the word bank.

Word bank: Geometric shapes · Primary colours · Soft circles · Jagged lines · Bold contrast · Abstract art

1. If a song sounds sharp, fast, and exciting, what kind of lines would you draw to represent it? Use a word from the bank. (2 marks)

2. Kandinsky believed that red, yellow, and blue were very powerful. What is the collective name for these? Use a word from the bank. (2 marks)

3. If a song sounds calm, smooth, and gentle, what type of shape might you draw to represent it? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think Kandinsky's work is called 'abstract'? Explain in your own words. (3 marks)

5. If you were to paint a 'happy' song, would you use dark, muddy colours or bright, vivid colours? Explain why. (3 marks)

Draw: Listen to a piece of music chosen by your teacher. On a blank sheet of paper, draw your own 'Kandinsky-style' artwork. Use at least three different geometric shapes and a mix of primary and secondary colours to show how the music makes you feel.



Extension challenge: Research one of Kandinsky's famous paintings, such as 'Composition VIII'. Write a short paragraph describing how the shapes are arranged. Do they feel balanced or chaotic? How much would you charge for a print of your own abstract painting in our school art shop? Give your price in Australian dollars and cents (e.g., £2.50).