

Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the life and abstract style of Wassily Kandinsky, focusing on the use of colour, shape, and emotion in art.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of abstract art to answer. You may use the word bank to help you express your ideas.

Wassily Kandinsky was a famous Russian artist who moved away from painting realistic pictures of objects. Instead, he created 'abstract' art, using vibrant colours and geometric shapes like circles, triangles, and lines to show feelings and music on the canvas. He believed that colours and shapes could 'speak' to us, much like a melody in a song.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Primary colours · Geometric shapes · Emotion · Rhythm · Synaesthesia

1. Zara the Zebra is looking at a Kandinsky painting filled with circles and squares. Why did Kandinsky choose to use geometric shapes instead of painting realistic animals or buildings? (2 marks)

2. Kandinsky often felt that colours represented different sounds or emotions. If you were painting a 'happy' song, which colours would you choose and why? (2 marks)

3. What is the difference between a 'realistic' painting and an 'abstract' painting? (2 marks)

4. Kandinsky believed that looking at a painting should feel like listening to music. What do we call the arrangement of different parts of an artwork to make it look balanced? (1 mark)

5. If a small print of a Kandinsky painting costs £4.50, how much would it cost to buy four of them for your classroom art display? (2 marks)

Draw: Using your pencil and coloured pens, create your own abstract masterpiece in the style of Kandinsky. Include at least three different geometric shapes and use bright, bold colours to express a specific emotion, such as excitement or calmness.



Extension challenge: Research what 'synaesthesia' means in relation to Kandinsky. Write one sentence explaining why some people think he could 'hear' colours.