

Starry Nights with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the artistic style of Vincent van Gogh and create a landscape using bold colours and expressive, swirling brushstrokes.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to painting like a post-impressionist artist. Use your pencil to sketch the main shapes first, then use your choice of drawing materials to add texture, movement, and vivid colours.

Draw: Create a landscape inspired by Van Gogh. Include a large, glowing moon in the top corner and a tall, dark, flame-shaped cypress tree in the foreground. Fill the sky with thick, swirling lines to show movement. Use bright yellows and oranges for the stars, and deep blues and purples for the night air. Keep your lines short and dashed to mimic the look of real paint.



Label words: Impasto · Swirl · Vibrant · Horizon · Brushstroke · Contrast

Steps:

1. Van Gogh used 'impasto' technique. Describe what this means in your own words.
2. Look at the word bank. Which word describes the technique of using thick, layered paint?
3. Name two primary colours you might use to create a bright, swirling night sky.
4. Why do you think Van Gogh used swirling lines in his paintings instead of straight, rigid ones?
5. Label your drawing: Draw an arrow to show where you have used 'impasto' style marks.