

Artist Study: Vincent van Gogh with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To research and analyse the life and artistic style of Vincent van Gogh, identifying his use of colour and brushstrokes.

Zara the Zebra loves spotting patterns and bold colours! Use this fact-file to record what you have learned about Vincent van Gogh. Use your best handwriting and look closely at his famous paintings to help you describe his style.

Word bank: Post-Impressionism · brushstrokes · vibrant · texture · canvas · oil paint · perspective · emotion

1. Early Life and Background: When and where was Vincent van Gogh born? Briefly describe his journey to becoming an artist. (2 marks)

2. Artistic Style: Zara notices that Van Gogh uses very special brushstrokes. How would you describe the way he applied paint to his canvas? (3 marks)

3. Colour Choices: Choose one of Van Gogh's paintings. Which colours are the most prominent, and how do they make the viewer feel? (3 marks)

4. Famous Works: Name two of his most famous paintings and explain why they are significant in the history of art. (2 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: If you could meet Van Gogh, what is one question you would ask him about his inspiration? (1 mark)

Extension challenge: Choose a scene from your own life (like your garden or a busy street) and sketch it in the style of Van Gogh, focusing on thick, swirling lines and bright, contrasting colours.