

Painting with Zara: The Vibrant World of Vincent van Gogh

Learning objective: To identify the key artistic techniques of Vincent van Gogh and apply them to create an expressive landscape.

Read the following questions carefully and use your knowledge of Post-Impressionism to answer them. Zara the zebra is looking for patterns and colours, just like Vincent did!

Vincent van Gogh was a famous artist who used thick paint and bold colours to show how he felt about the world. He often painted the countryside, swirling skies, and bright sunflowers. He did not just paint what he saw; he painted what he felt.

Word bank: Impasto · Brushstrokes · Vibrant · Texture · Complementary · Landscape · Emotion

1. Vincent van Gogh often used a technique called 'impasto'. Explain what this means in your own words. (2 marks)

2. Why did Van Gogh choose to use such bright, vibrant colours in his paintings instead of realistic ones? (2 marks)

3. Look at a painting like 'The Starry Night'. How do the swirling, curved brushstrokes change the way the sky looks compared to a straight line? (2 marks)

4. Van Gogh often used 'complementary' colours, like blue and orange, side by side. What is the effect of placing these two colours next to each other? (2 marks)

5. If you were to paint your own bedroom in the style of Van Gogh, which 'emotion' would you try to show through your choice of colours? (1 mark)

Draw: Using a pencil, sketch a simple landscape of a tree in a field. Once sketched, imagine you are Van Gogh. Use thick, short dashes of colour to fill in the sky and the grass, ensuring the paint (or colouring pencil) looks thick and full of energy.



Extension challenge: Research Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' series. Write a short paragraph explaining how he used different shades of yellow to create depth and light, and why this might have been difficult for an artist to achieve.