

Zara's Abstract Art Adventure: Exploring Kandinsky

Learning objective: To understand how Wassily Kandinsky used geometric shapes and colour to express feelings, and to create an abstract composition.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to abstract art. Wassily Kandinsky believed that colours and shapes could represent music and emotions. Use your pencil and colouring pens to create a piece of abstract art inspired by his style. Focus on overlapping circles, sharp triangles, and bold lines.

Draw: Create an abstract composition on a blank page. Include: 1) A series of concentric circles (circles inside circles), 2) Overlapping triangles and rectangles to create a sense of movement, 3) A variety of line types including zig-zags, wavy lines, and straight lines. Use bright, contrasting colours to fill in your shapes, ensuring that no two shapes of the same colour are touching.



Label words: Abstract · Geometric · Composition · Primary colours · Concentric · Shapes · Pattern

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw three large circles in the centre of your page. Inside each circle, draw three smaller circles so they look like a target. What is the mathematical name for circles that share the same centre?
2. Step 2: Add five triangles of different sizes. Kandinsky often used sharp angles to contrast with his soft circles. Do these triangles make your art feel calm or energetic?

3. Step 3: Draw thin, black lines connecting your shapes. Label two of these lines as 'curved' or 'straight'.
4. Step 4: Choose one primary colour (red, yellow, or blue) to fill in your largest circle. Why did you choose this colour?
5. Step 5: Look at your finished piece. If this drawing were a piece of music, would it be loud and fast or quiet and slow?