

Zara's Pattern Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and create different types of patterns used in art and design.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of patterns. Zara the zebra loves to spot patterns in nature and art—can you master them too?

What is a motif in art?

A motif is a single design element or shape that is repeated to create a pattern.

What does it mean for a pattern to have symmetry?

Symmetry means that if you fold the pattern in half, both sides match exactly like a mirror image.

What is tessellation?

Tessellation is when shapes fit together perfectly without any gaps or overlaps, like floor tiles.

How would you describe an organic pattern?

An organic pattern uses natural, curvy, or irregular shapes often found in plants, leaves, or seashells.

What is a geometric pattern?

A geometric pattern uses man-made shapes like squares, triangles, and circles with straight lines and sharp angles.

What is a radial pattern?

A radial pattern grows outwards from a central point, like the petals of a daisy or a starburst.

What is an alternating pattern?

An alternating pattern uses two or more different motifs that repeat in a specific sequence, like A-B-A-B.

What is the simplest way to create a pattern?

By using repetition, which is when you use the same shape or colour over and over again.

Name a place in nature where you might see a pattern.

Examples include a zebra's stripes, a spider's web, a honeycomb, or a butterfly's wings.

Why do artists use patterns?

Artists use patterns to create visual interest, show rhythm, or draw the viewer's eye to a specific part of the artwork.