

Zara's Cubism Challenge: Seeing from All Angles

Learning objective: To understand the key features of Cubism and apply them to create an original portrait, as inspired by Pablo Picasso.

Zara the Zebra is fascinated by how Pablo Picasso painted portraits. She loves how he showed different sides of a face at the same time! Read the descriptions below, then use the 'Cubism Checklist' to transform a standard face into a piece of abstract art. Your task is to draw a portrait that breaks the rules of perspective.

Word bank: Cubism · Abstract · Geometric · Perspective · Profile · Frontal · Fragmentation

1. Picasso used 'fragmentation' in his art. Explain in your own words why you think he chose to break a face into different shapes instead of drawing it realistically. (2 marks)

2. Look at a portrait painted in the Cubist style. If you see one eye from the side and one eye from the front, why is this different from how we usually draw a face? (2 marks)

3. Which geometric shapes can you identify in your own drawing? List three shapes you used to represent features like the nose or eyes. (2 marks)

4. If you were to sell your masterpiece at a school art fair, would you price it at £5.50 or £50.00? Give one reason for your choice based on the time and skill it took to create. (2 marks)

5. Zara thinks colours should express feelings. If your portrait is 'angry', what colours would you use? If it is 'calm', what colours would you use? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil and your imagination, draw a portrait of a friend or family member in the style of Cubism. Remember: draw one eye in profile (from the side) and one eye looking straight at the viewer. Use triangles, squares, and rectangles to build the shape of the face instead of smooth curves.



Extension challenge: Research a 'Blue Period' painting by Picasso. Write a short poem about why you think he chose to use mostly blue and green shades for those specific works.