Zara’s Pattern Playground: The Art of Printmaking

Learning objective: To understand the process of printmaking by identifying techniques and designing a repeating pattern.

Zara the Zebra loves to see patterns everywhere! Today, you are going to help her explore printmaking. Read the descriptions of different printmaking methods and match them to the correct terms in the word bank. Then, use your knowledge to plan your own print design in the space below.

Word bank: Relief Printing · Block · Brayer · Ink · Impression · Repeat Pattern

1. 1. I am a small roller used to spread an even layer of ink onto a surface. What am I? (1 mark)

2. 2. This is the process where you carve away parts of a surface, leaving the raised areas to be inked and pressed onto paper. What is this technique called? (1 mark)

3. 3. Explain in your own words what happens to a design when you turn it into a 'repeat pattern' across a whole page. (2 marks)

4. 4. True or False: In relief printing, the parts you carve away will appear as the colour of the paper, not the colour of the ink. Explain why. (2 marks)

5. 5. If you wanted to make a print for a greeting card that costs £2.50 to sell, and your materials cost £0.50 per card, how much profit would you make on each card? (1 mark)

Draw: Imagine you are using a square potato or a foam block to create a print. Draw a simple geometric shape (like a triangle or a star) inside the box below, and then draw how it would look if you stamped it four times in a row to create a repeating pattern.

Extension challenge: Try to find an object at home that has a texture (like a leaf, a piece of bubble wrap, or a coin). Describe how you think that object would look if you pressed it into paint and then onto paper. Would the texture show up clearly?