

Zara's Post-Impressionist Patterns

Learning objective: To understand the artistic style of Vincent van Gogh, focusing on his use of bold colours, expressive brushstrokes, and emotional expression.

Zara the zebra is visiting the art gallery to study the works of Vincent van Gogh. She has noticed that he uses specific techniques to make his paintings look full of movement and life. Look at the list of artistic terms below and match each one to the description of how Van Gogh painted. Then, complete the drawing task to show what you have learnt.

Word bank: Impasto · Complementary Colours · Expressive Brushstrokes · Vibrant Palette · Swirling Motion

1. I use thick, heavy paint that stands out from the canvas to add texture. What am I? (2 marks)

2. Van Gogh often used pairs like blue and orange, or yellow and purple, to make his paintings pop. What are these called? (2 marks)

3. Instead of smooth, blended lines, Van Gogh used short, dash-like marks to show his feelings. What are these? (2 marks)

4. Van Gogh often painted stars or clouds as if they were moving across the sky. Which term describes this effect? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think Van Gogh chose to use very bright, strong colours in his paintings instead of realistic ones? (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw a night-time landscape inspired by Van Gogh. Use 'swirling motion' for your clouds, 'expressive brushstrokes' (short, thick lines) for the sky, and 'complementary colours' (like yellow stars against a blue sky) to make your artwork shine.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an art critic. Write three sentences describing how a painting by Van Gogh makes you feel, using at least two words from the word bank in your answer.