

Textiles and Joining Techniques with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the properties of different textiles and to identify appropriate joining techniques for a design project.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of materials and construction to provide your answers. Remember to think about what makes a material suitable for a specific purpose.

Word bank: template · seam allowance · joining · properties · stitching · adhesive · textile · synthetic · natural

1. Zara the Zebra is designing a new pencil case. She needs a fabric that is strong and durable. Name one natural fabric and one synthetic fabric Zara could consider using. (2 marks)

2. Why is it important to use a 'seam allowance' when joining two pieces of fabric together? Explain your answer in one sentence. (2 marks)

3. If you were joining a decorative felt patch onto a cotton bag, would you use a needle and thread or a glue stick? Explain why your chosen method is better for a textile project. (3 marks)

4. Look at these three properties: Waterproof, Stretchy, and Absorbent. Match each property to a real-life item: A raincoat, a pair of sports socks, and a gym vest. (3 marks)

5. What is the purpose of a paper template when cutting out fabric shapes for a design project? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a design for a small fabric bag that Zara the Zebra could use to carry her art supplies. Label your drawing to show which parts are joined by stitching and which parts are joined by other methods, such as buttons or zips.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are creating a stuffed toy animal. Write a short paragraph explaining which textiles you would choose for the outer 'skin' and the 'stuffing', and why those materials were chosen.