

Exploring Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the key features of abstract art and use colour, shape, and line to express feelings and ideas.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of patterns and abstract styles to answer. Zara the Zebra is looking forward to seeing your creative ideas!

Abstract art does not try to look exactly like real-life objects or people. Instead, artists use lines, shapes, colours, and textures to create a mood or tell a story. Sometimes it looks like messy splashes, and other times it looks like neat, mathematical patterns. Zara the Zebra loves abstract art because it allows her to turn her feelings into a visual masterpiece without needing to draw a perfect portrait.

Word bank: Abstract · Geometric · Primary colours · Composition · Texture · Emotion · Organic shapes · Pattern

1. How is abstract art different from a realistic drawing of a house or a pet? (2 marks)

2. Zara wants to create an abstract piece to show 'happiness'. Which colours and types of lines might she choose to represent this feeling? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

3. Name two types of shapes an artist might use in an abstract painting. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think an artist might choose to use only primary colours in their abstract work? (2 marks)

5. If you were buying materials for an abstract project, and you spent £4.50 on paints and £2.25 on a canvas, what is the total cost of your art supplies? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a piece of paper, create an abstract artwork that represents the feeling of 'excitement'. Focus on using bold, zig-zag lines and bright, contrasting colours. Do not try to draw a specific object.



Extension challenge: Research a famous abstract artist of your choice. Write three sentences explaining why their work is considered 'abstract' rather than 'realistic'.