

Zara's Festive Pattern Design

Learning objective: To understand how repeating patterns and geometric shapes can be used to create festive artworks inspired by traditional winter themes.

Zara the zebra loves finding patterns in nature and art. A 'tessellation' is a pattern made of shapes that fit together without any gaps. Look at the shapes below and decide if they could form a repeating Christmas pattern. For each item, decide if it is a 'Repeating Pattern' (Tessellation) or a 'Single Motif' (Standalone Design), then explain your artistic choice.

Word bank: Tessellation · Motif · Geometric · Symmetry · Repeating · Contrast

1. A series of identical star shapes arranged in a grid with no spaces between them. Is this a Repeating Pattern or a Single Motif? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. A large, detailed drawing of a single robin bird sitting on a branch. Is this a Repeating Pattern or a Single Motif? Explain why. (2 marks)

3. Why do artists use 'Symmetry' when drawing snowflakes for Christmas cards? (2 marks)

4. If you were designing wrapping paper, would you use a Tessellation or a Single Motif? Why? (2 marks)

5. Zara wants to buy gold foil for her art project. If one sheet costs £1.20 and she buys 4 sheets, how much does she spend in total? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a ruler, draw a square in the centre of your page. Inside the square, create your own 'Geometric Christmas' pattern using only triangles and circles. Once finished, use two contrasting colours to colour your pattern.



Extension challenge: Research what 'primary colours' are. Create a second pattern design using only the three primary colours to see how they change the mood of your festive artwork.