

Year 4 Art Assessment: The Magic of Colour

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of primary, secondary, and complementary colours, and how to mix and use them effectively.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of colour theory to answer. You may use the word bank to help you with your written responses.

Zara the zebra is busy in her studio. She is painting a sunset scene using bright yellows and oranges, but she wants to add a cool, calm river in the foreground. She knows that by mixing her paints carefully, she can create exactly the right shades to make her artwork pop.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Complementary · Mixing · Intensity · Hue · Warm · Cool · Pigment

1. Name the three primary colours. Why are they called 'primary'? (3 marks)

2. Zara mixes red and yellow paint together. What secondary colour does she create? (1 mark)

3. Explain the difference between 'warm' colours and 'cool' colours. Give one example of each. (3 marks)

4. If Zara wants her painting to have high contrast, she should use complementary colours. Choose one pair of complementary colours and explain why they look good together. (4 marks)

5. How do you change the 'tint' of a colour when painting? Describe the process clearly. (2 marks)

6. Zara is painting a scene that makes the viewer feel peaceful and quiet. Write a short paragraph explaining which colours she should choose and why those colours affect our mood. (5 marks)

7. What happens to the colour of a painting if you add a tiny bit of black paint to it? (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw a simple colour wheel showing the three primary colours and the three secondary colours created between them. Label each colour correctly.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are designing a cover for a book about the ocean. Using only two complementary colours, sketch a design that creates a bold, exciting effect. Explain your colour choice in one sentence.