

Zara's Pattern Playground

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and create repeating patterns using geometric and natural shapes.

Zara the zebra loves patterns! She sees them everywhere, from the stripes on her coat to the petals on a flower. Look at the patterns below and complete the sequences by drawing the missing shapes. Then, use the word bank to describe the repeating unit of each pattern.

Word bank: Symmetry · Tessellation · Repeating unit · Geometric · Alternating · Rotation

1. 1. Look at this sequence: Square, Circle, Triangle, Square, Circle, Triangle... What is the 'repeating unit' that continues the pattern? (2 marks)

2. 2. If a pattern uses shapes that fit together perfectly without any gaps, like tiles on a floor, what is the mathematical name for this? (1 mark)

3. 3. Zara has a pattern of: Blue stripe, White stripe, Blue stripe, White stripe. Explain how you would describe this type of pattern. (2 marks)

4. 4. If you turn a shape 90 degrees and it looks exactly the same, what property of pattern does it have? (1 mark)

5. 5. Why do you think patterns are important in art? Think about how they make a piece of work look balanced. (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, create your own original repeating pattern using at least two different geometric shapes. Use a ruler to ensure your lines are neat, and colour your pattern using a limited palette of three colours.



Extension challenge: Find an object in your classroom or at home that has a pattern on it. Write down three words to describe the pattern and draw a small sketch of the repeating unit you found.