

Zara's Watercolour Wonders

Learning objective: To understand the properties of watercolours and experiment with different techniques to create texture and tone.

Zara the zebra loves the way colours blend and dance on paper. Follow the steps below to complete your watercolour techniques. You will need a set of watercolours, a brush, a pot of water, and some thick paper. For each technique, try it out on your paper and then answer the questions to show what you have learned.

Word bank: Pigment · Wash · Wet-on-wet · Transparency · Layering · Bleeding

1. If you paint a wet colour onto a piece of paper that is already damp, the colours spread and mix softly. What is the name of this technique? (1 mark)

2. Why do we say that watercolours have 'transparency'? Think about how the paper underneath shows through the paint. (2 marks)

3. Zara wants to create a very pale, light blue sky. How should she change her paint mixture to make the colour lighter? (2 marks)

4. If you accidentally drop a blob of water onto a dry painting, it might push the pigment away. Describe what happens to the edge of the paint when this occurs. (1 mark)

5. True or False: You must wait for the first layer of paint to be completely dry before adding a new colour on top if you want to keep the shapes distinct. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Using your watercolours, create a 'colour wheel' landscape. Paint a series of mountains, using a 'wash' of light blue for the furthest ones and a darker, more concentrated colour for the mountains closest to you. Add a sun using yellow and orange, letting the colours bleed together while the paper is still wet.



Extension challenge: Challenge: Try the 'salt technique'. While your painting is still very wet, sprinkle a tiny pinch of table salt onto the paper. Leave it to dry completely, then brush the salt away. Write a sentence explaining what pattern the salt created.