

Watercolour Wonders with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the techniques of using watercolour paints, including blending, colour mixing, and controlling paint consistency.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of watercolour painting to provide your answers. Remember to think about how water changes the appearance of the pigment.

Zara the zebra is busy in her studio today. She has her palette, a jar of clean water, and her favourite set of watercolours. She knows that unlike acrylics or oils, watercolours are special because they are see-through and rely on the paper showing through the paint.

Word bank: pigment · wash · translucent · blend · consistency · absorbent

1. Zara wants to paint a light blue sky. Explain why she needs to add more water to her blue paint to achieve this effect. (2 marks)

2. If you want to 'blend' two colours together on the paper (like red and yellow to make orange), why is it important that the paper is still wet? (2 marks)

3. What is the difference between a 'wash' and a 'fine detail' line in terms of how much water you should use on your brush? (2 marks)

4. Why must you wait for one layer of watercolour to dry completely before painting a different colour right next to it, if you do not want the colours to bleed into each other? (2 marks)

5. Zara is painting a landscape. She decides to use the 'wet-on-dry' technique for the trees. Describe what this means in your own words. (2 marks)

Draw: Using your watercolour kit, create a small scene showing a sunset over the ocean. Try to use a 'wash' technique for the sky and blend two different colours together where the sun meets the clouds.



Extension challenge: Research what 'cold-pressed' and 'hot-pressed' watercolour paper means. Write one sentence explaining which one you think would be better for a painting with lots of water and why.