

Zara's Color Theory Explorer

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of color theory, including primary, secondary, and complementary colors.

Join Zara the zebra on an artistic journey! Use this template to investigate how colors interact. Fill in the boxes using your knowledge of the color wheel and your own creative observations. You will need a set of paints or colored pencils to complete the tasks.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Complementary · Hue · Shade · Tint · Warm · Cool · Spectrum

1. Primary Foundations: Zara says primary colors cannot be made by mixing others. List the three primary colors and explain how they form the basis of the color wheel. (3 marks)

2. Secondary Secrets: Choose two primary colors and describe what happens when you mix them together. Name the new secondary color you have created. (2 marks)

3. Temperature Check: Explain the difference between 'warm' colors and 'cool' colors. Which group would you use to paint a bright, sunny desert, and why? (3 marks)

4. Complementary Contrasts: If you place a blue object next to an orange object, why does the image look so striking? Define what a 'complementary' color is. (2 marks)

5. Creative Application: Zara wants to paint a scene that feels calm and quiet. Which colors would you choose to achieve this mood and how would you use tints to help? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Create your own miniature color wheel in your sketchbook, making sure to label the primary and secondary colors clearly. Then, try to mix a 'shade' by adding a tiny touch of black to one of your colors.