

## Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

*Learning objective: To explore the life and abstract style of Wassily Kandinsky, focusing on the use of color, shape, and emotion in art.*

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of abstract art to answer. You may use the word bank to help you express your ideas.

Wassily Kandinsky was a famous Russian artist who moved away from painting realistic pictures of objects. Instead, he created 'abstract' art, using vibrant colors and geometric shapes like circles, triangles, and lines to show feelings and music on the canvas. He believed that colors and shapes could 'speak' to us, much like a melody in a song.

*Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Primary colors · Geometric shapes · Emotion · Rhythm · Synaesthesia*

**1. Zara the Zebra is looking at a Kandinsky painting filled with circles and squares. Why did Kandinsky choose to use geometric shapes instead of painting realistic animals or buildings? (2 marks)**

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**2. Kandinsky often felt that colors represented different sounds or emotions. If you were painting a 'happy' song, which colors would you choose and why? (2 marks)**

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**3. What is the difference between a 'realistic' painting and an 'abstract' painting? (2 marks)**

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**4. Kandinsky believed that looking at a painting should feel like listening to music. What do we call the arrangement of different parts of an artwork to make it look balanced? (1 mark)**

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**5. If a small print of a Kandinsky painting costs £4.50, how much would it cost to buy four of them for your classroom art display? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Using your pencil and colored pens, create your own abstract masterpiece in the style of Kandinsky. Include at least three different geometric shapes and use bright, bold colors to express a specific emotion, such as excitement or calmness.



*Extension challenge: Research what 'synaesthesia' means in relation to Kandinsky. Write one sentence explaining why some people think he could 'hear' colors.*