

Patterns in Art with Zara the Zebra

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

Read each question carefully and look for the patterns in your surroundings. Use your knowledge of symmetry, rhythm, and repetition to complete the tasks.

Zara the Zebra loves to look at the world through a creative lens. She knows that patterns are everywhere—from the stripes on her own coat to the arrangement of petals on a flower. A pattern is created when a shape, color, or line is repeated in a specific way. Some patterns are very organized with straight lines and sharp angles, while others are fluid and natural. Artists use these patterns to create movement, balance, and interest in their work.

Word bank: Symmetry · Repeating · Geometric · Organic · Motif · Tessellation · Rhythm

1. Zara has a black and white striped coat. Explain the difference between a geometric pattern and an organic pattern. (2 marks)

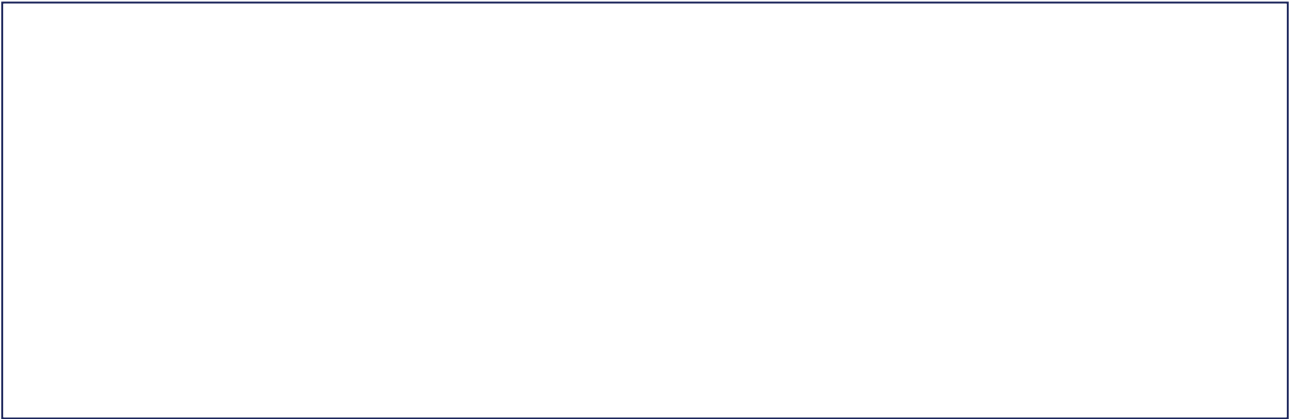
2. What is a 'motif' in art? Give an example of a simple motif you might use to create a border pattern. (2 marks)

3. Look at a square tile. If you place many square tiles together so they touch edge-to-edge without any gaps, what is this mathematical art technique called? (1 mark)

4. If a pattern has perfect 'symmetry', what does that mean? Describe how you would check if a butterfly's wing pattern is symmetrical. (2 marks)

5. Max the monkey wants to create a pattern using two triangles and one circle. Draw the sequence he should follow to make a repeating pattern. (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, design a repeating wallpaper pattern for Zara’s art studio. Use at least two different shapes and one color to create a rhythm across the page.



Extension challenge: Find three examples of patterns in your classroom or at home. Write down where you found them and describe whether they are symmetrical or asymmetrical.