

Zara's Abstract Art Adventure

Learning objective: To explore the principles of abstract art by using shape, colour, and line to convey emotions rather than realistic representations.

Zara the Zebra sees patterns and shapes everywhere! Abstract art is not about drawing something exactly as it looks; it is about how the art makes you feel. Look at the list of emotions below. For each emotion, choose a shape, a line type, and a colour palette. Then, complete the questions to explain your creative choices.

Word bank: Geometric · Organic · Monochromatic · Vibrant · Jagged · Fluid · Contrast · Symmetry · Composition · Hues

1. If you wanted to express the feeling of 'Joy' using only shapes and lines, which would you choose and why? Justify your choice of colour. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a jagged, dark-coloured line with a fluid, light-coloured line. What different moods might these two lines evoke for the viewer? (2 marks)

3. Explain why an artist might choose to use 'negative space' (the empty areas) in an abstract composition. (2 marks)

4. If you were to create a piece of art representing 'Calmness', would you use symmetrical or asymmetrical balance? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the emotional impact of your artwork if you changed all the colours from warm hues (like red and yellow) to cool hues (like blue and green)? (2 marks)

6. Evaluate your own design: How did you ensure your abstract composition feels balanced without using any recognisable objects or figures? (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, create two abstract squares. In the first square, draw 'Anger' using only jagged, dark lines and sharp geometric shapes. In the second square, draw 'Peace' using fluid, soft lines and organic shapes with pastel colours.



Extension challenge: Create a third abstract piece titled 'The Sound of a Forest'. Instead of drawing trees or leaves, focus on the rhythm of the shapes to represent the movement of wind and the dappled light of the sun through the canopy.