

Exploring the World of Abstract Art with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the core principles of abstract art and apply them by interpreting shapes, colours, and textures to express emotions.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of abstract art to answer them. Look at the word bank for help with terminology.

Zara the zebra loves to look at the world differently. She doesn't just see trees and flowers; she sees lines, circles, and splashes of colour. Abstract art is not about painting something exactly as it looks in real life. Instead, it uses shapes, colours, and marks to create a feeling or an idea. Some artists use geometric shapes like squares and triangles, while others use organic shapes that look like flowing water or leaves. In abstract art, the composition—the way things are arranged on the page—is just as important as the colours you choose.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Form · Geometric · Organic · Emotion · Primary colours · Texture

1. Explain the difference between a geometric shape and an organic shape in your own words. (2 marks)

2. Why might an artist choose to use abstract art instead of painting a realistic portrait of a person? (2 marks)

3. If you wanted to show the emotion of 'joy' using only abstract shapes and colours, which colours would you choose and why? (2 marks)

4. Look at the word 'composition'. What does this term mean when we talk about creating an abstract artwork? (1 mark)

5. How can the texture of paint (thick versus thin) change the way a viewer feels when looking at an abstract piece? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a piece of paper, create an abstract artwork inspired by the sound of your favourite music. Focus on using different types of lines (wavy, jagged, straight) and at least three colours to represent the rhythm and mood of the song.



Extension challenge: Research a famous abstract artist from the 20th century. Write a short paragraph explaining how they used colour to represent their feelings, and compare their style to Zara the zebra's love for patterns.