

Autumnal Patterns with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore colour theory and pattern through the observation of autumn foliage.

Zara the Zebra is inspired by the changing colours of autumn leaves. Read the descriptions below and match them to the correct artistic technique. Then, use your knowledge of warm colours to complete the patterns in the questions.

Word bank: Warm colours · Texture · Symmetry · Contrast · Hue

1. 1. Zara wants to use 'warm colours' for her leaf painting. Name three colours she should choose to represent a crisp autumn day. (3 marks)

2. 2. If Zara creates a leaf rubbing by placing a leaf under her paper and shading over it with a pencil, which element of art is she highlighting? Explain why. (2 marks)

3. 3. A maple leaf is often perfectly balanced on both sides of its stem. What is the mathematical term for this 'mirror image' pattern? (1 mark)

4. 4. If Zara paints a bright orange leaf against a dark blue background, she is using a technique to make the leaf stand out. What is this called? (1 mark)

5. 5. Imagine Zara finds a leaf that costs 5p to buy as part of an art collage pack. If she buys 12 leaves, how much will she spend in total? (2 marks)

Draw: In the frame below, draw a large autumn leaf. Inside the leaf, create an intricate pattern using only geometric shapes (triangles, squares, and circles). Colour the pattern using at least three different shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown.



Extension challenge: Research a famous landscape artist who painted autumn scenes. Write a short paragraph explaining how they used light and colour to show the changing seasons.