

Masterpieces and Movements: Exploring Artistic Styles

Learning objective: To identify key characteristics of famous artistic movements and apply these techniques to original compositions.

Use your knowledge of art history and the vocabulary provided to answer the questions below. Think carefully about how artists like Claude Monet (Impressionism) and Vincent van Gogh (Post-Impressionism) used colour and brushstrokes to convey emotion.

Zara the zebra loves to visit art galleries to find inspiration for her own patterns. She has noticed that artists use different techniques to show how they feel about the world. Some artists focus on capturing the way light sparkles on water, while others use thick, swirling paint to show strong emotions. By studying how these artists arrange their work, we can learn how to tell our own stories through art.

Word bank: Impressionism · Post-Impressionism · Brushwork · Perspective · Vibrant · Composition · Texture · Primary colours

1. Compare and contrast the painting styles of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. Use at least two words from the word bank in your explanation. (3 marks)

2. Explain why an artist might choose to use vibrant, contrasting colours instead of realistic, muted tones in a landscape painting. (2 marks)

3. If you were painting a busy market scene, how would you use perspective to ensure the viewer understands which stalls are closer and which are further away? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Does the texture of paint on a canvas change the way a viewer feels when they look at the artwork? Why? (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the overall composition of a piece if an artist decided to remove all the shadows and light sources? (2 marks)

Draw: Choose a common object, such as a piece of fruit or a simple chair. Draw it twice: first, in the style of Impressionism (using small, quick, light-filled dashes of colour), and second, in the style of Post-Impressionism (using bold outlines and thick, expressive lines).



Extension challenge: Research a famous artist from the 19th or 20th century. Write a short 'Art Critique' (100 words) from the perspective of Zara the zebra, describing how the artist's use of colour and composition influences your mood when you look at their work.